

Hafa Adai!

Kindness Crew wraps up successful 'Buy One Lollipop, Save One Dog' initiative. **PAGE 3**

Rotary Club hosts Zumba Dance-A-Thon to eradicate polio. **PAGE 5**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 218

THURSDAY OCTOBER 31, 2024

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CCC SAYS:

IPI should voluntarily give up casino license exclusivity

BY KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Commonwealth Casino Commission members during their regular board meeting yesterday at Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai.



By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

“There is a greater chance of success for Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to sell its assets and the

casino license if they voluntarily surrender the ‘exclusivity.’”
See IPI on Page 4

\$75K bail for Tinian Mayor's ground maintenance staff

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The NMI Superior Court yesterday imposed a \$75,000 cash bail on a man from Tinian allegedly involved in drug distribution.

Following his arrest
See \$75K on Page 4



CHRYSTAL MARINO
Dean Mendiola Evangelista is escorted out of his bail hearing yesterday afternoon at the NMI Superior Court in Susupe.

Commonwealth nations adopt their first ocean declaration



By KEIRAN SMITH and
AYAKA MCGILL
Associated Press

APIA, Samoa (AP)—
Commonwealth countries
See ADOPT on Page 4

AP
Samoa's Prime Minister Afio-ga Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa addresses the final press conference at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Apia, Samoa, Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024.

NMTech to reopen campus after flood recovery efforts

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute has announced the reopening of its Lower Base campus next Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024, following its temporary closure due to recent flooding.

See NMTECH on Page 4



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute campus in Lower Base after flooding brought about by Tropical Depression Kong-rey 23W last weekend.

INSIDE



LOCAL

The Supreme Court is looking to adopt the NextGen Bar Exam for all future candidates for admission to the Commonwealth Bar Association starting in 2026.

PAGE 5



LOCAL

Earlier this summer, NMC Project PROA sent 27 Proa Pathway scholars to attend the 3rd Annual Summer Research Academy.

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LIFE & STYLE

Teri Garr, the quirky comedy actor who rose from background dancer in Elvis Presley movies to co-star of such favorites as “Young Frankenstein” and “Tootsie,” has died. She was 79.

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VOTE CNMI 2024

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT INSIDE





UNDERSTANDING MY UTILITY BILL FOR RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

PLEASE RETURN THIS STUB WITH PAYMENT
COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 501220 SAIPAN, MP 96950-1220
(670) 664-4282 (SAIPAN)
(670) 433-9264 (TINIAN) • (670) 433-9264 (TINIAN)

CUSTOMER NAME		
JUAN DOE		
SERVICE ADDRESS		
SAMPLE		
ACCOUNT NUMBER	BILLING DATE	PAST DUE DATE
12345	02/23/2023	03/10/2023
AMOUNT DUE		AMOUNT PAID
378.13		

KEEP THIS STUB / SEE REVERSE SIDE

SERVICE TYPE	DAYS	PREVIOUS	CURRENT	USAGE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	
1 ELECTRIC	28	01/12/2023 12345	02/09/2023 13145	800	Customer Charge	7.00	
					Electric Charge	51.00	
					Fuel Adjustment Charge	247.64	
					Total ELECTRIC	305.64	
					2 WATER	28	01/12/2023 1234567
Water Usage	10.67						
Water Elec Charge	29.35						
Total WATER	50.88						
3 SEWER	28	01/12/2023 1234567	02/09/2023 1242457	7890			
					Sewer Usage	11.92	
					Total SEWER	21.61	
					Total Due This Month		378.13

Fuel Adjustment Charge

The Fuel Adjustment Charge (FAC) (previously known as LEAC) is \$0.27989 per kWh, effective as of 02/01/2023. The prior FAC was \$0.32360 per kWh, effective 12/01/22-12/31/22.

TOTAL DUE

378.13

CUSTOMER NAME		ACCOUNT NUMBER	
JUAN DOE		12345	
SERVICE ADDRESS		BILLING DATE	
SAMPLE		02/23/2023	
		PAST DUE DATE	
		03/10/2023	

1 ELECTRIC

Monthly Customer Charge (MCC)

A fixed monthly customer charge that covers service costs, regardless of electricity usage. It includes costs related to meter reading, billing, accounting, collections, meter, equipment, and maintenance.
MCC for Residential Customers: \$7.00

Electric Charge

A fixed, tier level rate that is applied per kilowatt hour (kWh) that you consumed, and covers the cost of services that are non-fuel related such as engines, maintenance and repairs, substations, heavy equipment, the power grid, personnel costs, professional services, etc. There are three (3) applicable tiered rates when computing this charge. Visit the CUC Website for the "Schedule of Electric Charges and Rates."
Usage x Base Rate per kWh*

Fuel Adjustment Charge (FAC)

The **Fuel Adjustment Charge (FAC)** is dedicated to recovering the cost of fuel and fuel-related expenses. The FAC rate is adjusted up or down when there is a 4.5% differential from the average cost per gallon of fuel from the previous month. CUC is authorized to adjust the FAC rate pursuant to an order under Docket 13-01 dated May 26, 2016, by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).
If your bill includes charges from two different months, your billed usage will be prorated and calculated using the FAC rate applicable to each month.
Usage x FAC Rate for the Month*

2 WATER

Water Service Fee

The water service fee covers service costs, regardless of the water used. This includes costs related to meter reading, billing, accounting, collections, meter, equipment, and maintenance. The service fee rate is determined based on your meter size. Most residential use 1/2 inch or 3/4 inch pipes which amounts to **\$10.86 per month**.

Water Usage

A fixed, tier-level rate that is applied per volume of 1,000 gallons of water consumed and is used to cover the costs of facilities, water tanks, water wells, distribution lines, heavy equipment, personnel costs, professional services, etc.
Usage ÷ 1,000 x Volume Rate per 1,000 gallons of water*

Water Electric Charge

A rate that is applied per volume of 1,000 gallons of water consumed and is used to cover the electricity costs to produce and treat water.
Usage x 0.00372 or Usage ÷ 1,000 x \$3.72

3 WASTEWATER / SEWER

Sewer Service Fee

The sewer service fee covers service costs, regardless of the sewer services used. This includes costs related to meter reading, billing, accounting, collections, meter, equipment, and maintenance. The service fee rate is determined based on your meter size.

Sewer Usage

A fixed, tier-level rate that is applied and based on the per volume of 1,000 gallons of water you consumed and is used to cover the costs of facilities, water tanks, water wells, distribution lines, heavy equipment, personnel costs, professional services, etc.
Usage ÷ 1,000 x Volume Rate per 1,000 gallons of water*

How My Electric Services Were Calculated:

Residential customer billed 800 kWh for one (1) month.

Monthly Service Charge		\$ 7.00
Electric Charges		
kWh Usage	Rate per kWh	Non-Fuel Charges
First 350 kWh	350 kWh x \$0.021	\$ 7.35
Next 450 kWh	450 kWh x \$0.097	\$ 43.65
Total Electric Charges		\$ 51.00
Fuel Adjustment Charge (FAC) Prorated		
Month	kWh Usage x FAC Rate	Fuel Charges
January	800 kWh x 19 days x \$0.32360 28 days	\$ 175.67
February	800 kWh x 9 days x \$0.27989 28 days	\$ 71.97
Total FAC		\$ 247.74
TOTAL ELECTRIC		\$ 305.64

(Calculations above are based on the January 2023 and February 2023 rate and tariff schedule)

***To see the Schedule of Rates and Tariffs visit**
<https://www.cucgov.org/rates-and-tariffs/>

For more
information,
visit us at -

Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building
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Local

Kindness Crew wraps up successful ‘Buy One Lollipop, Save One Dog’ initiative

The fifth grade Kindness Crew, led by teacher Doris Rioux-Materne, at Saipan International School has successfully concluded their heartwarming initiative, “Buy One Lollipop, Save One Dog,” which aimed to support local animals in need. According to Grade 5 teacher Daryn Roufs, “this compassionate project not only showcased the students’ love for animals but also highlighted the essential support from teachers in the elementary school, who guided and inspired the students throughout the process. Thank you to Mrs. Doris for all of the effort and help with the Kindness Crew and leading them to take positive action within the community!”

The Kindness Crew took great pride in showing leadership throughout the process of

creating hand-made lollipops to sell. The fifth graders sold the lollipops during recess, attracting students from all grades eager to enjoy a sweet snack while contributing to a noble cause. Thanks to the overwhelming support from the school community, fifth graders were able to contribute and support the Saipan Cares for Animals organization.

This initiative became a true school-wide effort, demonstrating the power of kindness and teamwork. Teachers played a crucial role helping students organize their activities and encouraging them to engage with the community. This collaborative spirit reflects the school’s commitment to fostering social responsibility among its students.

“Our goal was to make a difference,” shared Tim Watson, a proud member of the Kindness Crew. “Even just one lollipop can help feed a dog and show our community that small actions can have a big impact.” This sentiment resonates deeply within the school as students learn that compassion and teamwork can lead to meaningful change.

Through this successful initiative, SIS not only provided vital support for local animals but also instilled valuable lessons about empathy and community involvement in its students. The Kindness Crew’s efforts serve as an inspiring example of how young hearts can come together to create positive change in their community. (PR)

VOTM to showcase young voices in ‘Harmony in the Community’

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate and showcase the young voices in our community, the Voices of the Marianas and the Save the Music Foundation-CNMI is set to host the “Harmony in the Community,” a young talent singing celebration on Nov. 16, 2024 at the Kagman Community Center.

The event, set to begin at 11am that day, is aimed at bringing together budding singers from across Saipan and offers a platform for young talents to showcase their vocal skills in front of the community for a prize of \$100. According to a press release from the Voices of the Marianas, the competition divides participants into three levels—elementary, junior high, and high school. Sing-

ers can pick from two categories—local/island songs and mainstream songs. At the end, the winners of each category will each receive \$100. VOTM also noted that a parent or legal guardian must be present with the child during the event.

With no entry fees, the contest has made participation accessible to all young singers and the deadline to register is on Nov. 8, 2024.

The Voices of the Marianas shared that the event was originally set for Oct. 26, but has since been rescheduled to Nov. 16, they are inviting all interested participants to email voicesofthemarianas@gmail.com to register. VOTM shared that, as part of their goals, they want to give an opportunity for youth in the CNMI to express themselves and connect through music.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
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PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-001-25
SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 31, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

“REMOVAL/DISPOSAL OF EXISTING PAPI AND REIL LIGHTS AND INSTALL NEW PAPI AND REIL LIGHTS AT THE BTM ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED “REMOVAL/DISPOSAL OF EXISTING PAPI/REIL LIGHTS AND INSTALL NEW PAPI/REIL LIGHTS (IFB-001-25)” TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., OCTOBER 31, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2024




JOIN US FOR A

Meet and Greet



Hon. Congressman Rodante Marcoleta
SAGIP Party Representative
Republic of the Philippines

NOVEMBER, 01, 2024
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
Koblerville Gymnasium



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on August 13, 2021, **Joaquin Felix Tomokane**, an immediate family member of **David Chargualaf**, an employee of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.


Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low to moderate income individuals intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Chargualaf, an employee of NMHC, is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this grant application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.


Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net on or before **November 8, 2024**.

Dated this 11th day of October, 2024.

/s/
Zenie P. Mafnas
Corporate Director



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-004-25
SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 31, 2024: 4:00 P.M.

“REPAIRS OF PIPES AND FITTINGS OF THE SEAWATER FIRE FIGHTING PUMP SYSTEM AT THE PORT OF SAIPAN”

THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.


PROPOSERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED “REPAIRS OF PIPES/FITTINGS OF THE SEAWATER FIRE FIGHTING PUMP SYSTEM (RFP-004-25)” TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 4:00 P.M., OCTOBER 31, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.


THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS OR PROPOSALS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2024



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-011-24
SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 31, 2024: 4:00 P.M.

“CYBERSECURITY CENTRALIZED NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION PER TSA REQUIREMENTS”

THE BID PACKAGE AND OTHER CONTRACT CONSIDERATIONS IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE \$100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT FIVE (5) HARD COPIES AND ONE ELECTRONIC COPY ON A CD, OR DVD, OR FLASH DRIVE, IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED “CYBERSECURITY CENTRALIZED NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION PER TSA REQUIREMENTS” (RFP-011-24)” TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 4:00 P.M., OCTOBER 31, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

DPS to conduct sobriety checkpoints today

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

In a coordinated effort to keep Saipan’s roads safe during Halloween celebrations, the Department of Public Safety has launched a series

of sobriety checkpoints this week. These checkpoints, part of a collaboration with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s “Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving” and “If You Feel Different, You Drive Different” campaigns, are scheduled

for Oct. 30 and 31, 2024. The DPS Highway Patrol Section established checkpoints on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Chalan Kiya from 7pm to 9pm and Chalan Pale Arnold Chalan Lau Lau from 9pm to 11:30pm yesterday. Tonight, Oct. 31,

officers will be stationed along Beach Road Garapan from 7pm to 9pm and on Chalan Monsignor Martinez As Lito from 9pm to 11:30 pm. In addition to these checkpoints, DPS will intensify patrols and traffic

enforcement throughout Halloween night. These measures aim to protect the community, especially children participating in Halloween festivities. For more information, contact DPS at (670) 664-9000.

NMTECH

From page 1

After heavy rains caused significant disruptions, a coordinated recovery effort involving faculty, staff, students, and community volunteers has restored the campus to full operational capacity. NMTech chief executive officer Jodina Attao expressed gratitude to all who contributed to the swift cleanup and restoration. “The safety and well-being of our students and staff were our top priori-

ties during this recovery process,” Attao stated in a recent memorandum to stakeholders. She extended her appreciation to the NMTech maintenance team, local businesses, industry partners, and volunteers, highlighting their essential roles in ensuring a timely return to regular campus operations. Students can expect to resume classes and activities on Nov. 6, with no major disruptions to the academic schedule. Attao advised students to monitor their emails for any specific updates regarding course schedules or adjustments that may affect training and certification timelines.

With the reopening of the campus, NMTech is eager to resume its mission of providing technical education and training, undeterred by the recent challenges. Attao also thanked the community for its patience, saying, “We at NMTech, appreciate the patience and understanding of the community throughout this process and look forward to welcoming everyone back to campus next week.” For further details, students and staff are encouraged to visit the NMTech website at www.nmtech-cnmi.org or contact the administration directly.

\$75K

From page 1

earlier that day, 47-year-old Dean Mendiola Evangelista stood before Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho for his bail hearing where he faced charges of possession of controlled substances, attempts and conspiracies, and trafficking. Evangelista works for the Tinian Mayor’s Office as ground maintenance staff. During the bail hearing, Evangelista’s arrest warrant cash bail was maintained at \$75,000, and a preliminary hearing set for Nov. 7 at 10am. He is also ordered to appear for his arraignment on Nov 14 at 10am. Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds is to represent the CNMI government and public defense attorney Emily Thomsen was appointed to represent Evangelista. Until his next appearance in court, Evangelista was remanded back to DOC custody. According to court documents, officers reported Evangelista distributing methamphetamine, or “ice,” in an investigation involving multiple

controlled buys. According to DPS reports, Evangelista first appeared on their radar in late 2022 when a cooperative defendant disclosed ongoing meth purchases from him. On Dec. 21, 2022, DPS arranged a controlled buy, with cooperative defendant contacting Evangelista to purchase \$100 worth of methamphetamine at a designated location. Surveillance teams reported observing Evangelista meeting the cooperative defendant and completing a quick handoff, after which the cooperative defendant turned over a plastic straw containing a crystal-like substance. Field tests later confirmed the presence of meth. Almost a year later, on Nov. 7, 2023, the cooperative defendant again came forward, citing further drug purchases from Evangelista. DPS conducted a second controlled buy under similar conditions. This time, the cooperative defendant obtained \$50 worth of methamphetamine in another brief exchange with Evangelista, who promptly left the scene. Officers recovered a second sample, which later tested positive. Within a day, the cooperative de-

fendant was back, claiming Evangelista was ready for another transaction. On Nov. 8, 2023, around 1am., DPS surveillance teams documented an exchange between the cooperative defendant and a third party believed to be acting on Evangelista’s behalf. The intermediary arrived on a motorcycle, completed the exchange, and quickly departed. This third sample also confirmed the presence of methamphetamine upon testing. Following these documented buys, DPS secured a search warrant for Evangelista’s vehicle, which they executed on June 15, 2024. During the search, officers discovered multiple items associated with meth use, including a small Ziplock bag, a clear straw, and a glass pipe—all testing positive for methamphetamine, weighing approximately 2.0 grams in total. Initially, Evangelista expressed willingness to cooperate with DPS in their ongoing drug investigations. However, as of the date of the report, DPS officials note that Evangelista has not followed up on his commitment. An arrest warrant was issued for him on Oct. 8, 2024, and executed yesterday morning.

ADOPT

From page 1

adopted Saturday their first ocean declaration during their summit held for the first time in the Pacific island nation of Samoa as calls from some of Britain’s former colonies for reparatory justice for the trans-Atlantic slave trade grew louder. The Apia Ocean Declaration was announced during the closing session of the 27th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, or CHOGM, and calls on all 56 Commonwealth nations to protect the ocean in the face of severe climate, pollution and overexploitation. More than half the Commonwealth members are small countries like Samoa, many face significant, some even existential, threats from rising seas. While the environmental threat was foreshadowed as a predominant theme going into the summit, the

transatlantic slave trade from Britain’s colonial history dominated the discourse through the opening days. **‘A line in the sand’ declaration** The Apia Commonwealth Ocean Declaration for One Resilient Common focuses on recognizing maritime boundaries amid sea-level rise, protecting 30% of oceans and restoring degraded marine ecosystems by 2030, and urgently finalizing the Global Plastics Treaty. It also calls for ratifying the high-seas biodiversity treaty, developing coastal climate adaptation plans, and strengthening support for sustainable blue economies. Samoa Prime Minister Fiame Naomi Mata’afa said in a statement released by her office that it was fitting for “our first ocean declaration” to be adopted “in the Blue Pacific continent given climate change has been recognised as the single greatest threat to the security and well-being

of our people.” The Commonwealth represents a third of the world’s population, and 49 of its 56 countries have a coastline. The organization says 25 of its members are increasingly impacted by climate change, rising sea levels, growing temperatures and increasing ocean acidity—impacting sea life, ecosystems and the communities that depend upon them. Mata’afa said the declaration must become “a line in the sand” for the world to collectively transform “ocean exploitation into protection and sustainable stewardship.” Outgoing Commonwealth Secretary-General, Patricia Scotland said in a statement they were “immensely proud of this achievement” which “sets the standard for forthcoming international meetings, generating momentum for ocean protection as we head towards COP29 in Azerbaijan in November, and next year’s UN Ocean Conference.”

IPI

From page 1

This was the recommendation made by Commonwealth Casino Commission chair Edward DeLeon Guerrero in a letter to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, the Office of the Attorney General, and the CNMI Legislature. During a CCC board meeting yesterday, DeLeon Guerrero and members of the commission expressed that the casino industry is still very much alive, but changes need to be made to see it flourish. Newly sworn in commissioner Thomas Atalig Manglona, echoing DeLeon Guerrero’s sentiment, expressed that he took on the position as a CCC commissioner because he believes the casino industry has a fighting chance to possibly be the CNMI’s second economic driver next to tourism but only if something is done to help the industry. “I take this duty very seriously. In the CNMI, people are suffering to make the choice between buying food or paying their bills. We are obligated to find a way to do something about it. We only have one industry right now; there’s a military build-up but that’s going to take some time. I’m willing and looking forward to working with the commission on this,” he said. DeLeon Guerrero shared that he has written a letter detailing recommendations that would help the casino industry succeed in the long run. “There is a greater chance of success for IPI to sell its assets and the casino license if they voluntarily surrender the exclusivity, the Casino License Agreement gets amended, and the Legislature entertains amendment to P.L 18-56,” he said. “It is my understanding that the District Court in the Oct. 1, 2024 IPI’s bankruptcy hearing, decided to allow the sale of IPI’s assets along with the casino license to increase its value. While the CCC is not necessarily against this idea, it is important to remember that IPI has not satisfied the requirements of the CNMI casino gaming statute (P.L. 18-56), specifically the requirements for IPI to invest a minimum of \$2 billion and construct a minimum of 2,000 new hotel rooms of 5-star quality. If the casino license is to be included in the sale of IPI’s assets, then the potential buyers need to be informed that they would be required to satisfy these requirements as well. To date, IPI has invested an estimated \$400 million in the construction of the Initial Gaming Facility (Imperial Pacific Resort or Imperial Palace) in Garapan with 329 rooms under construction and 15 completed 5-star villas,” he adds. DeLeon Guerrero recommends that the Commonwealth, with the assistance of the OAG, Office of the Governor and the Legislature, consider requesting the federal bank-

ruptcy court to allow IPI to voluntarily surrender the casino license exclusivity. The CCC chair adds that the CCC should cease all license revocation deliberations and related proceedings. In addition, DeLeon Guerrero recommends that Palacios request the Commonwealth Legislature to amend P.L. 18-56 once IPI voluntarily surrenders exclusivity to allow more casino licenses. “The CNMI should grandfather one license for IPI (for the subsequent buyer).” Also, DeLeon Guerrero suggests that the minimum investment amount be lowered from \$2 billion to \$300 million per licensee to build new hotel rooms or invest \$50 million per licensee to renovate existing properties. Also, to reduce the number of required hotel rooms from 2,000 new hotel rooms to 300 rooms per licensee. Furthermore, the CCC chair suggests lowering the annual casino license fees from \$15 million to \$5 million per licensee; lowering the annual regulatory fees from \$53 million to \$1 million per licensee; impose a casino gaming tax of 5% of gross gaming revenue; and imposing a one-time one-year fee (\$15.5 million license fee and \$3 million regulatory fee) as part of the post-petition fee requirements under the current law in approving the transfer of a license to a new investor. CCC also suggests a requirement of a \$1-million application fee to cover costs associated with the investigations and other due diligence to include financial, criminal, probity and other related vetting of the new casino licensee. Lastly, CCC requests that the existing Casino License Agreement between the Lottery Commission and IPI be amended to; delete and waive IPI’s future obligations to construct Phase I and Phase II of the CLA. delete other IPI’s obligations not related to the Initial Gaming Facility, and delete the Community Benefit Fund provisions moving forward. “IPI’s obligations should be restricted to completion and satisfaction of the requirements of the Initial Gaming Facility (Imperial Pacific Resort or Imperial Palace),” he said. “The House of Representatives, in the recent budget hearing, expressed their willingness to entertain additional licenses but noted its concerns to amend the gaming laws because IPI still has the exclusive license. In the past, however, IPI has publicly agreed to waive the exclusivity if they can retain one license. As noted, these are my recommendations on how to move forward with our casino industry. If we do not consider these options, this matter will drag on for many years and the Commonwealth will not realize the economic potential and other benefits that the gaming industry can contribute to our economy,” DeLeon Guerrero adds.

Rotary Club hosts Zumba Dance-A-Thon to eradicate polio

By SKYLEE SANTOS

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CORRESPONDENT

The Rotary Club of Saipan held its first-ever Zumba Dance-A-Thon last Oct. 18, in honor of World Polio Day. The event was dedicated to raising awareness and funds to support the global fight against polio, a disease eradicated in the CNMI thanks to vaccination efforts.

The CHCC Public Health Immunization Office has confirmed that the CNMI remains polio-free due to the widespread administration of the polio vaccine.

Despite the economic challenges faced by many, the event garnered strong community support.

In an election year, where many organizations are also fundraising, Rotary Club members and supporters have united to ensure this cause receives the attention it deserves. "We have a community committed to health and wellness," said Rotary Club president Joann Aquino. "Partnering with all Zumba instructors and fitness coaches from various groups allowed us to build goodwill and better friendships, while also promoting a great cause."

The funds raised will be donated to the Rotary International Polio Plus Foundation, which focuses on providing vaccines to regions still affected by the disease. "Our goal is to contribute to a world free



SKYLEE SANTOS

Participants and instructors pose for a group photo at the Rotary Club of Saipan's Zumba Dance-A-Thon held to support polio eradication efforts. From left, zin Joel Vallega, zin Marie Reyes, zin Julie Harrison, zin Mita Pelicano, zin Rhine Russell, zin Helly Montes, zin Whang Abby, zin Joann Aquino, zin Chunhua Zhang, zin Irene Holl, zin Dee Clayton, Thyle, zin Michelle Olita, zin Susan Galman, and zin Kazu Castro

from polio," Aquino stated.

This unique event brought together instructors and participants from across Saipan. Teams included Fitbeat Fitness Group led by coach Irene Holl, coach Joel Vallega, coach Moji De Luna, zin Helly Montes, zin Kazu Castro, zin Susan Galman, zin Art Salazar, and zin Zhang Chunhua; Gold's Gym's Zumba instructor zin Rhine Russell; Xtreme Fitness Group with zin Michelle C. Olita and zin/coach Angelo C. Galfo; M2 Fitness Group's zin Mita Pelicano and zin Julie Harrison; 670 I Love Zumba Group's instructor zin Marina Reyes; DC Classics instructor Dee Clayton; Zumba Fusion Fitness CNMI instructor zin Joann T. Aquino; and Zumba instructor zin Abby Whang.

The event was made possible thanks to the efforts of Rotary Club members, including Aquino, secretary Catherine Attao, past presidents Greg Borja, Irene Holl, and Sonya Dancoe, double past president Curtis Dancoe, and vice president Brian Clayton. Volunteers from the Rotaract Club of Saipan, led by president Genelin Camacho and advisor Rosalyn Ajoste, played a significant role, along with volunteers Enrico C. Morales, Evangeline Taitingfong, Simon Necesito, Jadrien Lotoc, Stephanie Sexon, Sharina Besmonte, and Patricia Borja.

Key sponsors for the event included the TSL Foundation, D&Q Distributors, Micronesian Brokers, Green Meadows School, Marianas Coffee, 38

Mitsubachi Pancake & Cafe, Gentle Brook Cafe, Megabyte of Saipan Inc., Latte Built Gym & Fitness Center, Miss Earth Northern Marianas, DC Classics, Sen. Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), and Danny Aquino.

This Zumba Dance-A-Thon followed a successful "End Polio Now Bike Chal-

lenge Race" held in January at Banzai Cliff, attended by District 2750 governor Yoichiro Miyazaki. With Rotary International's Foundation Month coming up in November, Rotary encourages donations to further support the fight against polio and sustain ongoing efforts. Rotary's mission, embodied

in events like the Zumba Dance-A-Thon, is to create healthier, polio-free communities worldwide. As the Rotary Club of Saipan continues its campaign, it remains committed to partnering with the community and welcoming support from those who share the vision of a world without polio.

Smoke and dye testing for Oleai today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that dye tests and smoke tests will be conducted at Oleai on today, Oct. 31, 2024, from 9am to 2pm. The purpose of these tests is to locate leaks, breaks, and other connections in CUC's sewer system.

About the dye test

A dye test is a sewer inspection method whereby nontoxic dye is introduced into the toilets and cleanouts of participating customers. CUC's wastewater operators will monitor sewer lines for any signs of presence from the dye. If the dye appears in CUC's sewer lines within the customer's area, the customer will then be informed of their connection, and the data will be sent to the Billing Department for proper billing.

Customers should be expecting a visitation from CUC's Wastewater Operators to request for access before performing the dye test.

About the smoke test

A smoke test is a sewer inspection method whereby nontoxic smoke is forced into sewer system access points. The smoke travels through all connected pipes in the sewer system, indicating pipe leaks, breached utility holes, cracks, uncapped lines, and other defects. Testers can also locate unknown pipe sections, such as cleanouts, downspouts, and sump pumps.



CUC

The map of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. scheduled dye tests and smoke tests today, Oct. 31, 2024, in Oleai.

The smoke is nontoxic, nonhazardous, and is manufactured specifically for this purpose. It leaves no residue or stains and has no effects on plants or animals. The smoke is not expected to enter your home; however, if it does, it will have a distinct odor and should clear out within a few minutes with proper ventilation. Please be advised that all plumbing fixture drain traps must be filled with water before the test.

To ensure the safety of CUC crew, certain roadways will be closed during the testing period to allow Wastewater Operators to access the manholes. Motorists are advised to reduce speed and exercise

caution while driving in the area or take alternative routes.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding in helping identify customer connections. CUC aims to conduct these tests efficiently while minimizing disruption to customers' daily activities. By proactively engaging in this testing, CUC reaffirms its commitment to providing reliable wastewater services for the community.

For more information, contact CUC's hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit its website, and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. For emergencies, contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. (PR)

Supreme Court eyes adopting NextGen Bar Exam in 2026

The Supreme Court is looking to adopt the NextGen Bar Exam for all future candidates for admission to the Commonwealth Bar Association starting in 2026.

In an e-filing notice to intent, the court said it has carefully studied the new format and consulted with legal educators and practitioners. After these deliberations, the court has been recommended to adopt the NextGen Bar Exam.

This determination is in line with the Commonwealth's goal of maintaining a high standard of competency and ethics for all practicing attorneys and a continuing interest in reaching full reciprocity with UBE jurisdictions when practicable in the future. All jurisdictions which administer the UBE must transition to the NextGen Bar Exam by July 2028, when the UBE is phased out permanently. The court was left with a decision of not whether, but when, to adopt the NextGen Bar Exam.

"The court has the responsibility of regulating admission to the Commonwealth Bar Association to ensure that

candidates possess the requisite knowledge and skills to effectively represent the interests of the public and the legal community. Since 2014, the Commonwealth has administered the UBE, a standardized, 12-hour test designed to assess fundamental legal principles applicable to many jurisdictions across the United States. The bar exam also includes two essay questions based on local law, the Local Content Essays," the court said.

The National Conference of Bar Examiners announced that the NextGen Bar Exam will begin to replace the Uniform Bar Examination starting in July 2026, introducing the updated format concurrently with the UBE for two years before the UBE will be made unavailable for any jurisdiction to use as a test for law licensure.

The NCBE recently undertook a comprehensive, multi-year review of the existing bar exam structure to modernize the exam and align it with the true demands of the legal profession.

As a result, the NCBE de-

veloped the NextGen Bar Exam, which is designed to better integrate testing of both substantive law and practical skills. The NextGen Bar Exam will focus on assessing competencies essential for newly licensed lawyers, such as legal research, client communication, and negotiation, while reducing the emphasis on rote memorization of specific legal doctrines. The exam will be shorter, at nine hours, compared with the current 12-hour UBE, but will still be administered across two days. Where the current bar exam must be completed by hand, the NextGen Bar Exam will be administered electronically.

The Commonwealth does not engage in reciprocity with UBE jurisdictions, but administers the full UBE by utilizing all three of its components: the Multistate Essay Examination, Multistate Performance Test, and Multistate Bar Examination. Sitting for the Commonwealth Bar Exam does not provide examinees with a UBE score that is portable to other jurisdictions. (Saipan Tribune)

27 Proa Pathway transfer scholars engage in research opportunities in Portland

Earlier this summer, NMC Project PROA sent 27 Proa Pathway scholars to attend the 3rd Annual Summer Research Academy. The SRA was held at the Smith Memorial Student Union Ballroom at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon from June 17-21, 2024. The Center for Internship, Mentoring, and Research and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission sponsored the event. This marks the second year that Project PROA and CIMR teams met in person since the Northern Marianas College was awarded the Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving cooperative grant, or Proa Pathway Partnership, back in October 2022.

This partnership enabled the institution to establish a memorandum of understanding between Project PROA and CIMR to provide access to a clearer pathway for students who start at NMC and transfer to PSU by making the transition more seamless and transparent. Airfare and summer housing expenses were covered for all scholars participating in this opportunity.

The event was designed to engage undergraduate students interested in making a difference in their communities by pursuing research opportunities in STEM, biomedical, behavioral, clinical, health, the arts, and social sciences. The goal of SRA is to provide undergraduate students an introduction to what research is, how it's developed and conducted, and where to find relevant research opportunities. Participants heard from a range of professional researchers in their respective fields, panel discussions by undergraduate and graduate students involved in research, and got to know the different undergraduate research opportunities available at PSU and other universities.

"I want to thank our partners at PSU for coordinating these efforts and working closely with us to ensure our scholars are accessing the appropriate services and resources to



Proa Pathways scholars take a group photo with NMC's Social Science and Fine Arts professor, Dr. James Kline, far left, along with former NMC employee and PSU alumni, Alexis Cabrera-Manglona, and their PSU Mentor, Shanthia Espinosa, who is an NMC and PSU alumni.

succeed as transfer students. It took a lot for our students to move away from home, so I want to congratulate them again for their perseverance and commitment to completing the summer immersion program. I am excited for them to experience university life at PSU and cannot wait for them to come back home," said Kaelani Demapan, director of Project PROA and principal investigator of Proa Pathway Partnership. "One of the program's requirements is to intend to return home to the CNMI to contribute to our workforce so I trust that our scholars are committed to doing so after accomplishing their goals."

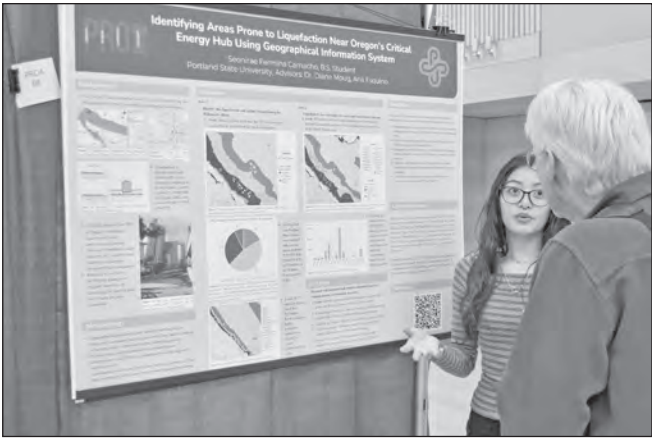
On Sept. 18, 17 transfer scholars conducted oral and poster presentations at the Summer Undergraduate Research Forum, where friends and family on Saipan were able to join virtually. This concluded their summer immersion program as part of their induction into the research environment and building confidence in their work. Three scholars scored the most points in their presentations. Seoni Rae Camacho, majoring in Civil and Environmental Engineering, placed first in her research project involv-



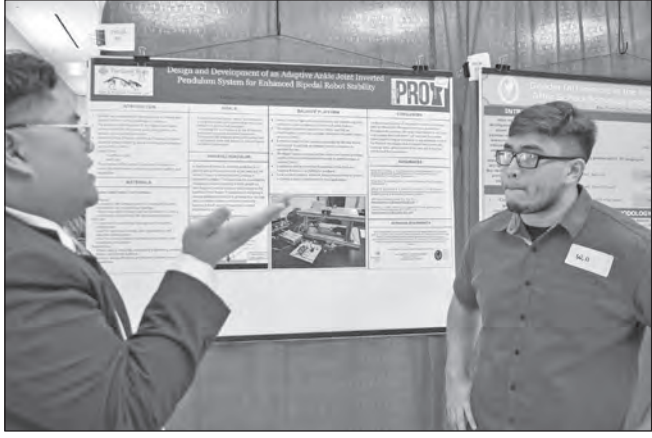
Rownel Jody Coloma engages with a participant during his poster presentation at PSU's 2024 Summer Undergraduate Research Forum (Proa Pathways Scholar: Cohort 1B).

ing "Identifying Liquefaction Hazards" mentored by Dr. Diane Moug; Arianna Kapileo, majoring in Pre-Clinical, placed second in her research project involving the "Impact of Age at Full Oral Feeding and Pre-Discharge Feeding Volume on Growth Trajectories in Moderately Preterm Infants" mentored by Dr. Maggie Jerome and Dr. Diane Stadler; and Clark Jonas Cabang, majoring in Electrical Engineering, placed third in his research project involving

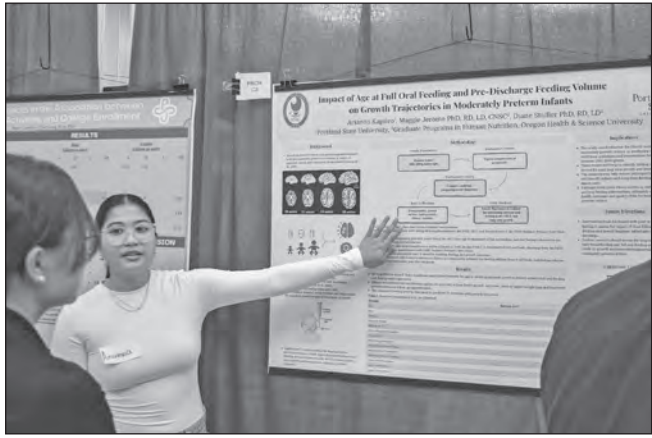
"Temperature Sensing in an Electric Water Heater to Use Heat as a Power Source" mentored by Dr. Robert Bass. The PROA Pathways program is committed to supporting AAPI students as they graduate from NMC and transfer to PSU. By providing services that help them identify career paths in STEM, receive mentorship and guidance, and gain research experience, the program ensures that students are well-prepared for their



NMC's Social Science and Fine Arts professor, Dr. James Kline, listens in during Seonirae Camacho poster presentation. (Proa Pathways Scholar: Cohort 2A).



William Deleon Guerrero and Jefferson Cunanan discuss the results of William's research findings. (Proa Pathways Scholars: Cohort 1B).



Arianna Kapileo speaks with a participant about her research findings from her time in the Graduate Programs in Human Nutrition at Oregon Health and Science University (Proa Pathways Scholar: Cohort 2A).

transition. The deadline to submit applications for Cohort 3 is Dec. 1, 2024. For more information about how to apply for the Proa Pathways (transfer) program, visit www.marianas.edu/projectproa. (PR)



Clark Jonas Cabang, recent NMC Liberal Arts Pre-Engineering graduate, presenting his research at PSU's 2024 Summer Undergraduate Research Forum (Proa Pathways Scholar: Cohort 2A).



Several Proa Pathways scholars take a group photo with their PSU Mentor, Shanthia Espinosa, far left.



MEET THE CANDIDATES

CEC's 2024 general elections roster

As the 2024 general election approaches, the Commonwealth Election Commission has released the official list of candidates running for office. This year's slate includes a diverse group of individuals, each bringing unique perspectives and priorities to the table. From fresh faces to seasoned leaders, these candidates represent a cross-section of our community and embody the hopes, goals, and values of the CNMI. Here is a look at those who are stepping forward to shape the future of our islands.

- JUDGE**
 - **ASSOCIATE JUDGE TERESA KIM TENORIO**
Position sought: Judge
Party: Non-partisan
- US DELEGATE**
 - **GONZALES, JOHN OLIVER DELOS REYES**
Position sought: U.S. Delegate
Party: Independent
 - **HOFSCHNEIDER, LIANA**
Position sought: U.S. Delegate
Party: Independent
 - **KING-HINDS, KIMBERLYN KAY**
Position sought: U.S. Delegate
Party: Republican
 - **RAYPHAND, JAMES MICHAEL**
Position sought: U.S. Delegate
Party: Independent
 - **PROPST, EDWIN KENNETH**
Position sought: U.S. Delegate
Party: Democrat

- SENATE**
 - **CALVO, RONNIE MENDIOLA**
Position sought: Senate (1st Senatorial District)
Party: Independent
 - **MANGLONA, PAUL ATALIG**
Position sought: Senate (1st Senatorial District)
Party: Independent
 - **KING-NABORS, KARL ROSARIO**
Position sought: Senate (2nd Senatorial District)

- Party: Republican
 - **CASTRO, MANNY GREGORY TENORIO**
Position sought: Senate (3rd Senatorial District)
Party: Democrat
 - **DELEON GUERRERO, EDITH E.**
Position sought: Senate (3rd Senatorial District)
Party: Independent
 - **SABLAN, LUIS MASGA**
Position sought: Senate (3rd Senatorial District)
Party: Independent
- HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
 - **ADA, ROY CHRISTOPHER ALDAN**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 1
Party: Republican
 - **ALDAN, VINCENT RAYMOND SEMAN**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 1
Party: Independent
 - **BENAVENTE, ROMAN CEPEDA**

- Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 1
Party: Independent
 - **CAMACHO, DIEGO VINCENT SEMAN**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 1
Party: Democrat
 - **DELEON GUERRERO, CARMEN PATRICIA**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 1
Party: Independent
 - **FLORES, JOSEPH ARRIOLA**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 1
Party: Independent
 - **MARATITA, JANET ULLOA**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 1
Party: Independent
 - **PALACIOS, RAYMOND ULLOA**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 1
Party: Independent
 - **PITEG, BENUSTO**
Position sought: House of

- Representatives Precinct 1
Party: Republican
 - **QUITUGUA, EDWIN RAYMOND BORJA**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 1
Party: Independent
 - **SABLAN, YVETTE REYES**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 1
Party: Independent
 - **AQUINO, DANIEL JR IWASHITA**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 2
Party: Independent
 - **SABLAN, DIEGO MANGLONA**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 2
Party: Independent
 - **SABLAN, JOHN PAUL PALACIOS**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 2
Party: Independent
 - **ATTAO, BLAS JONATHAN**
Position sought: House of

- Representatives Precinct 3
Party: Independent
 - **BENSON, DEL ARIEL**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 3
Party: Independent
 - **CAMACHO, VICENTE CASTRO**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 3
Party: Democrat
 - **FLORES, MARISSA RENEE**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 3
Party: Independent
 - **RANGAMAR, ELIAS JEROME MALITE**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 3
Party: Independent
 - **VILLAGOMEZ, EDMUND JOSEPH SABLAN**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 3
Party: Independent
 - **YANGETMAI, DENITA KAIPAT**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 3

- Party: Democrat
 - **YUMUL, RALPH NARAJA**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 3
Party: Independent
 - **CAMACHO, JOEL CASTRO**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 4
Party: Independent
 - **KAPILEO, ANTONIO SUDA**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 4
Party: Republican
 - **OMAR, MALCOLM JASON**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 4
Party: Independent
 - **RIOS, ROSA TAMAN**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 4
Party: Republican
 - **TAITANO, CECILIA R.**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 4
Party: Independent

See CEC on Page 13

Vote YES
For Judicial
Retention on

November 5th

JUDGE
TERESA
KIM-TENORIO

1

Continues to serve as the Drug Court judge, the first treatment court in the CNMI.

2

Assisted in the implementation of Mental Health Court, the second treatment court in the CNMI, and continues to explore other treatment courts.

3

Implemented Family Night Court sessions, a night time court session to assist those unavailable during working hours.

PLEASE VOTE #3 KING- HINDS



FOR US CONGRESS

YOUR VOTE
IS YOUR
POW3R
#levelupcnmi



THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN
APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE
TO ELECT KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS
FOR US CONGRESS



Former Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said she is running for CNMI delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives because she believes the CNMI deserves a strong, fearless advocate who will fight for a future where the people are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.

King-Hinds, who is a lawyer, said she has spent her career pushing for accountability and solutions, whether by challenging the federal government's neglect or standing up for the community's right to determine its own path. "With your support, I will continue to level up our islands, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to thrive here at home," said King-Hinds, appealing to voters in the Nov. 5 general elections.

King-Hinds is running under the CNMI Republican Party. She's No. 3 in the ballot for the delegate position. The four other delegate candidates are House floor leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) of the Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands and independent candidates James Rayphand, Liana Hofschneider, and John Oliver Gonzales.

She said she has knocked on hundreds of doors and in these conversations, everyone's kitchen table is



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kimberlyn King-Hinds during one of her campaign sorties.

being impacted by the state of the economy.

King-Hinds said those impacted are whether they are big or small businesses, working in the private or public sector, or the average citizen who can't find a job or the retiree worrying if they will continue to get their full pension.

"The job of the delegate is to hear the cries of the people and bring them relief. People want the delegate to help bring economic stability to these islands," she said.

If elected, one of King-Hinds' priorities is to revitalize the tourism industry by fighting to restore Annex VI so that the CNMI can open up all

markets.

Annex VI of the U.S.-China Civil Air Transport Agreement explicitly permits the airlines of the People's Republic of China to offer unlimited scheduled air services between the PRC and the CNMI. It also states that these air services are not subject to limitations concerning flight designations or frequencies.

Other priorities of King-Hinds is to fight for common sense immigration and labor policy to ensure that the CNMI has adequate labor necessary to support current and emerging industries and to stabilize the Commonwealth's decreasing population by expanding eligibility requirements



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kimberlyn King-Hinds speaks about her plans for the CNMI if she's elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

to provide long-term status for those who have been in the CNMI for an extended period of time, regardless if they have U.S. citizen children or not.

King-Hinds said she will also work on lowering the cost of living by prioritizing the modernization of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. which will provide relief to rate payers, lower the cost of doing business in the CNMI and put more money in peoples' pockets.

Her platforms for delegate are about leveling up, workforce development, immigration, education, economy, health, and military development.

She said by addressing critical issues in immigration, workforce development, education, the economy, health, and military development, they can build a future where the CNMI not only meets national standards but "sets new ones ourselves."

On leveling up, which is also her campaign slogan, King-Hinds said it signifies not just personal growth, but also collective advancement.

"It's about elevating our communities, enriching our culture, and empowering our people to reach new heights together," she said.

King-Hinds said in the CNMI, leveling up is her commitment to building a brighter future for all, which means creating opportunities for economic prosperity, enhancing educational outcomes, improving healthcare access, and ensuring that the peoples' unique cultural heritage is preserved and celebrated.

She said leveling up is about making sure that every resident of the CNMI can thrive in an environment that supports their ambitions and fosters a sense of unity and shared purpose.

She said this platform aims to outline the topics and policy areas that she seeks to address in her first term as delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

On workforce development, King-Hinds said the CNMI's workforce faces immense pressure, with federal expectations to perform beyond their capacity without adequate support or resources.

"Workers are expected to carry heavy loads, sacrificing personal time and well-being to sustain the economy," said King-Hinds, adding that the lack of local enforcement of federal labor laws leaves the CNMI workforce vulnerable and unsupported.

Her workforce development strategy is centered on securing greater funding to support workforce development initiatives and obtaining more data on the CNMI's workforce.

She pointed out that increased technical assistance for the CNMI government on workforce development is also essential.

King-Hinds said the CNMI must pursue implementing specific funding objectives and pathways separate from Department of Interior Technical Assistance Program grants to fulfill the goals of 48 U.S.C. 1807 Technical Assistance. She vowed to secure

King-Hinds: CNMI deserves a STRONG, FEARLESS advocate

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

◀ Kimberlyn King-Hinds is the CNMI Republican Party's candidate for U.S. delegate in the Nov. 5 general elections.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kimberlyn King-Hinds is an avid runner and it shows in her campaign stickers.

See **ADVOCATE** on Page 13

Paid for by the CTE Edwin Propst, Treasurer Edward Calvo



PROPST FOR US DELEGATE

Propst is There for You—Vote #1 November 5, 2024!

Håfa Adai yan Tirow! I'm Edwin Propst, and I'm asking for your vote this November 5, 2024. In the CNMI, we are raised with strong values of respect, family, and taking care of our neighbors. These values are at the heart of my campaign and guide my approach to leadership. I believe that true leadership means working together, building bridges, and finding common ground to achieve the best outcomes for our islands. Our community faces real challenges, and I'm ready to go to Washington DC to ensure our voices are heard and our needs are met.

TOP PRIORITIES



Healthcare

Remove the Medicaid cap to provide better healthcare for our families.

- Secure essential healthcare resources and improve local medical facilities.
- Achieve healthcare equity across Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.



Economy

Expand opportunities and bring federal support to the CNMI.

- Advocate for the restoration of Covenant funding to support economic development and infrastructure.
- Promote a balanced military presence for economic growth while preserving our culture.



Education

Empower the next generation with quality education and training.

- Secure funding for NMC and NMTech to expand skills training and workforce development.
- Close the tuition gap for CNMI students at public universities nationwide.



Workforce & Jobs

Strengthen local labor and create stable career paths.

- Push for federal job training programs to meet the demands of healthcare and skilled trades.
- Support the passage of HR 560 and a new Marianas Worker Visa program to ensure the long-term stability of the CNMI's workforce.



Climate & Infrastructure

Build resilience for a sustainable future.

- Collaborate with federal agencies to secure resources for disaster recovery and infrastructure improvements.
- Focus on climate readiness and safe, resilient housing for all residents.



Public Integrity & Accountability

Combat corruption and restore trust in government.

- Advocate for a dedicated U.S. Attorney to focus on the CNMI.
- Ensure proper use of public funds with increased oversight and accountability.



Housing & Food Assistance

Support families during times of need.

- Increase affordable housing options and emergency assistance programs.
- Modernize the Nutrition Assistance Program for efficiency and security.

CANDIDATE'S EXPERIENCE

Edwin Propst is the current Floor Leader of the 23rd CNMI House of Representatives and has served as a Representative since 2015. He has experience managing the PSS Headstart Program and leading student activities at Northern Marianas College. As a former small business owner of Pacific Digital Media and a teacher at Marianas High School, he understands both business and education. Edwin holds a Bachelor's in Communications from the University of Hawaii and is a Marianas High School graduate.

BUILDING BRIDGES, NOT BARRIERS

Edwin Propst understands that to get the job done in Washington, you need to bring people together, build meaningful connections, and foster understanding. Unlike opponents who rely on confrontation, Ed's approach is about teamwork and collaboration—finding common ground to achieve the best outcomes for the CNMI.

WHY I'M RUNNING

Our islands deserve representation that prioritizes dialogue, cooperation, and finding solutions that work. I'm dedicated to securing the resources that will make a real difference in healthcare, education, jobs, infrastructure, and our economy. Together, let's build a stronger and more resilient CNMI.

SI YU'US MA'ÅSI', GHILISOW, SALAMAT PO,
KINISOU CHAPUR, THANK YOU.

- Edwin K. Propst

More Information 



www.edpropst.com

@propstforcongress



By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

It was in February of this year when House floor leader Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), with his wife Daisy and their four children by his side, made his announcement to run as the CNMI's delegate in the U.S. Congress under the Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands' banner.

The youngest and only son of three children, Propst was born in American Samoa but moved to Saipan when he was just 4 years old and grew up in his family's home in Susupe. He is the son of the late Ivan Propst, originally from Illinois, and Juanita Palman Propst, originally from the Philippines. Both of Propst's parents were longtime CNMI educators.

Propst attended Mt. Carmel School then graduated from Marianas High School and the Northern Marianas College before moving on to the University of Hawaii at Manoa where he earned a Bachelor's degree in communications. Upon his return to Saipan, he worked in the education field—as an English teacher at Marianas High School, an administrator at Northern Marianas College, and as the Headstart Program manager at the Northern Marianas Public School System, before running for office.

In 2014, despite limited resources and having only a small campaign committee, he ran in Precinct 1 as an independent candidate and placed second out of 17 candidates. Four terms later, Propst has consistently been the top vote-getter in the CNMI's largest precinct—garnering support from Democrats, independents, and Republicans.

Propst campaigns on his vision for a fiscally responsible government that serves all people, not just the politically-connected elite few. He feels a sense of indebtedness to the people he serves, which prompted his decision to run for U.S. Congress. He knows that the delegate's role involves representing the entire Commonwealth, including all islands and individuals, regardless of citizenship or political affiliation.

Propst has always expressed his utmost respect to the leadership and accomplishments of the current U.S. delegate, Gregorio Kilili Sablan (D-MP), who has endorsed Propst. "No one can replace Kilili, but with his guidance, I will build on what he has accomplished for the Marianas while also implementing my own ideas that are consistent with the progress Kilili



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

House floor leader Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), with his wife Daisy and their four children.

has made. I won't fix what isn't broken. With his support, and my team, I will hit the ground running for the betterment of the entire Commonwealth," Propst said.

Propst believes in the importance of building relationships and finding common ground with others, even if they have different political views. "Kilili is a statesman. He is not a lawyer. Congress is not a courtroom, and

delegates don't need to fight. They need to communicate. That's my skill set. And telling people who fly all the way over here that 902 talks are untimely or that they are not highly-ranked will not help our agenda. We need to dialogue and work with all of our federal partners who are willing to come here and see our islands for themselves, and who want to help us in Washington, D.C.," Propst added.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A young Edwin K. Propst with his father Ivan Propst, mother Juanita Propst, and sisters Lynn Gersonde and Gloria Perez.

Propst has served the community with honesty and integrity. He has supported families during typhoons and fought corruption most recently in the BOOST hearings. He seeks the U.S. delegate seat because he wants to improve access to quality healthcare and education for the Marianas' residents, stabilize and strengthen the CNMI's workforce, and support economic resiliency and growth through federal in-

vestments in infrastructure, safe housing, and regional transportation links. He will also push for accountability for the federal resources that are delivered to the Commonwealth, to ensure that they provide the intended benefits and services for the people.

With a decade of public service in the CNMI House of Representatives, proven experience as a legislator, and the endorsements of not only delegate Sablan, but also Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, and Propst's Democrat and independent colleagues in the Legislature, Propst is committed to representing the Marianas and ensuring that its people's needs are heard in Congress. "I will listen to you, the people of the Commonwealth, and I will be there for you in Congress. I humbly ask for your vote this election. I am No. 1 on the ballot but you are No. 1 in my heart," he said.

Propst's SOLID RECORD of commitment to public service

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

House floor leader Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) campaigns on his vision for a fiscally responsible government that serves all people, not just the politically-connected elite few.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

House Floor Leader Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) is shown supporting the community after Super Typhoon Yutu.



VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES

Your voice matters

- ✓ **You have the right to request for Voter Assistance:** If you need help, polling place workers are available to assist and accommodate your needs
- ✓ **Assistance with Ballots:** if you are unable to mark your ballot, you can select up to two people to help, but they cannot be your employer or employer's agent.
- ✓ **Right to Privacy:** You can cast your vote privately without having to disclose it to anyone
- ✓ **Curbside Voting:** You may choose to curbside vote, where a poll worker will assist you from your vehicle. This is entirely your choice and no one can force you to vote curbside.
- ✓ You have the right to an accessible polling place.

For more information on your rights as voter with a disability, please contact the **Protection & Advocacy for Voting Access (PAVA)** program at **NMPASI** at 235-7273/4 or visit us online at www.nmpasi.org



ADVOCATE

From page 9

funding for a comprehensive study of the CNMI’s workforce capacity and develop a long-range plan for workforce development funded through CW worker education fees.

King-Hinds said coordination and legislation to produce timely, accurate, and detailed workforce and immigration statistics will allow the CNMI to establish an adequate plan for the training and development of U.S. workers.

She will also secure funding for the extension of U.S. Department of Labor enforcement to the CNMI Department of Labor.

On immigration, King-Hinds said the federal mandate to transition the CNMI’s immigration system has eroded self-government, imposing unrealistic expectations on the CNMI without adequate federal resources or support. “This uncertainty has already stunted our development and affected investment decisions, creating a cloud of doubt about our future workforce and economic viability,” she said.

King-Hinds’ key goals in immigration focus on establishing a permanent and sensible program that allows businesses and the economy in the

CNMI to access foreign workers to meet labor demands unmet by the local workforce.

She aims to expand long-term residency status for more foreign workers who have committed their lives to the advancement of the CNMI.

King-Hinds will also seek to simplify and streamline the processes for welcoming international visitors from source markets that will benefit the CNMI’s tourism-based economy.

She said coordination between local and federal processes is essential to reduce and eventually end birth tourism.

King-Hinds said enhancing federal enforcement of immigration violations is also a priority.

To achieve these goals, she proposed eliminating the termination date of the current transition program and replacing it with a permanent visa category for the Marianas region.

King-Hinds said this program would restructure permit allotments to not exceed 15,000, with mechanisms to adjust this number as needed to meet local workforce and economic needs.

She said local processing of Temporary Labor Certifications will be secured, along with building local capacity for U.S. workforce development.

She said the criteria for long-term worker classifica-

tion will be broadened, and a pathway for CNMI-residency status for long-term foreign workers will be created.

King-Hinds said she will engage in concentrated conversations with the Department of Homeland Security to include more countries, such as the Philippines, in the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

She added that stakeholder meetings with airlines, hospitals, healthcare providers, and federal agencies will help develop a system to disincentivize travel to the CNMI for birth tourism.

She said increased federal enforcement presence and streamlined deportation processes for undocumented individuals who have committed crimes will further strengthen CNMI’s immigration system.

On education, King-Hinds said educational attainment levels in the CNMI do not meet national standards, and the CNMI institutions lack the funding and infrastructure to support teachers, staff, and students adequately. She said there is also a need for a curriculum that reflects CNMI’s unique cultural heritage while preparing students for the future.

King-Hinds goals for education include raising educational attainment levels in primary and secondary public institutions to meet or exceed

national measurements.

She aims to develop the Northern Marianas College into an R1 research university and increase funding to support teachers and support staff directly interacting with students.

King-Hinds served as chairperson of the NMC Board of Regents from 2002 to 2006. King-Hinds will also seek increased infrastructure funding to advance the capabilities of the public schools.

To achieve these goals, King-Hinds said she will advocate for Sea Gant status for NMC, enhancing its research capabilities and access to federal funding for marine and environmental sciences.

She will pursue the inclusion of NMC in federal research grant programs offered by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

King-Hinds said securing federal grants and loans for the construction, renovation, and modernization of school facilities, including classrooms, laboratories, and technology centers, will ensure students have access to modern learning environments.

She will also pursue, among other things, federal grants for acquiring modern educational technology and implementation programs to ensure all students have access to high-

speed internet and digital learning resources.

Pertaining to the economy, King-Hinds said federal policies have historically posed significant threats to the CNMI’s economy, impacting the CNMI’s ability to sustain itself more than natural disasters, global pandemics, and geopolitical conflicts.

She said the lack of a cohesive federal and local policy on CNMI development leaves the community vulnerable to decisions made by individuals unfamiliar with CNMI’s unique challenges.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

CEC

From page 7

■ **CAMACHO, ANGELO ATALIG**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 5
Party: Independent

■ **FAISAO, MELVIN LAWREN ODOSHI**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 5
Party: Republican

■ **MANGLONA, THOMAS JOHN DELA CRUZ**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 5
Party: Independent

■ **SAN NICOLAS, PATRICK HOFSCHEIDER**
Position sought: House of Representatives Precinct 6
Party: Republican

■ **MANGLONA, EUSEBIO MENDIOLA**
Position sought: House of Representative Precinct 7
Party: Independent

■ **OGO, JULIE MARIE ATALIG**
Position sought: House of Representative Precinct 7
Party: Independent

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (ROTA)

■ **ATALIG, JIM MICHAEL**
Position sought: Municipal Council (Rota)
Party: Non-partisan

■ **LIZAMA, JONAVAN HOCOG**
Position sought: Municipal Council (Rota)
Party: Non-partisan

■ **MASGA, SANDRA MESNGON**
Position sought: Municipal Council (Rota)
Party: Non-partisan

■ **TAIMANAO, TILLIE CASTRO**
Position sought: Municipal Council (Rota)
Party: Non-partisan

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (TINIAN)

■ **CABRERA, ESTEVAN PANGELINAN**
Position sought: Municipal Council (Tinian)
Party: Non-partisan

■ **SAN NICOLAS, ANA MARIE CRUZ**
Position sought: Municipal Council (Tinian)
Party: Non-partisan

■ **SANTOS, JOSEPH ROMALDO EVANGELISTA**
Position sought: Municipal Council (Tinian)
Party: Non-Partisan

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (SAIPAN)

■ **PANGELINAN, CARMEN CABRERA**
Position sought: Municipal Council (Saipan)
Party: Non-partisan

■ **TUDELA, ANTONIA MANIBUSAN**
Position sought: Municipal Council (Saipan)
Party: Non-Partisan

■ **TUDELA, MARIAN DELEON GUERRERO**
Position sought: Municipal Council (Saipan)
Party: Non-partisan

BOARD OF EDUCATION

■ **BARCINAS, ANTHONY WAYNE DELA CRUZ**
Position sought: Board of Education (Rota)
Party: Non-partisan

■ **ADA, MARTIN BORJA**
Position sought: Board of Education (Saipan)
Party: Non-partisan

■ **BORJA, GREGORY PAT**
Position sought: Board of Education (Saipan)
Party: Non-partisan

■ **OGUMORO-ULUDONG, ASCHUMAR KODEP**
Position sought: Board of Education (Saipan)
Party: Non-partisan

■ **TENORIO, JUAN IGUEL**
Position sought: Board of Education (Saipan)
Party: Non-partisan

■ **TENORIO, MAISIE BERMUDEZ**
Position sought: Board of Education (Saipan)
Party: Non-partisan

Designated polling places this Nov. 5

Pursuant to I CMC 6105 (c), the Commonwealth Election Commission hereby announces the designated polling places for the upcoming Nov. 5, 2024 General Election. The polling places are as follows:

Election District Precinct 1A (San Antonio Area) Hopwood Junior High School Cafeteria (Football field entrance)	Precinct 4A (Tanapag Area) Tanapag Youth Center (Main entrance)
Precinct 1B-1 (San Vicente/Dandan Area) 1B-2 (San Vicente/Dandan Area) Dandan Middle School Cafeteria (Dandan baseball/softball field entrance)	Precinct 4B (San Roque/As Matius Area) Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School Cafeteria (Main)
	Precinct 4C (Capitol Hill Area) Jesus P. Manas Legislative Building (House Chamber)
Precinct 1C (Koblerville Area) Koblerville Elementary School (Cafeteria)	Precinct 4D (Northern Islands) Alamagan, Pagan and Agrigan
Precinct 2 (Chalan Kanoa/Susupe Area) Joeten/Kiyu Public Library (Front entrance)	Precinct 5-1 (Kagman Area) 5-2 (Kagman Area) Chacha Oceanview Middle School (Cafeteria)
Precinct 3A (San Jose/Oleai) Oleai Elementary School Cafeteria (Front entrance)	Precinct 6 (Tinian & Aguiguan) Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria
Precinct 3B-1 (Garapan Area) 3B-2 (Garapan Area) Garapan Elementary School Cafeteria (Northern entrance)	Precinct 7 (Rota) Rota-Northern Marianas College Room B-2 (Main entrance)

All polling places for the general election will open at 7am and close at 7pm on Nov. 5.

As mandated by 1 CMC –B6218 (a), voters must ensure that they bring with them a pictured ID as they will be required to present it in order to be issued a ballot at the polls.

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Election Commission at 235-8683 (VOTE).

VOTE
CNMI 2024
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Saipan Tribune

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Our view on the presidential candidates

Once again, we approach a presidential Election Day unable to offer our readers guidance on which of the two major party candidates is best suited to spend the next four years in the White House.

This is the third consecutive cycle in which we have struggled with the decision of whether to toss a dart at the ballot in hopes of hitting the lesser of two evils. Our conscience again will not permit us to do so.

Neither former President Donald Trump, the Republican nominee, nor Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democrat, are suitable to lead the United States during these dangerous and divisive times.

So, just like in 2020, when the choice was between Trump and now-President Joe Biden, we are withholding our endorsement in the presidential race. We faced a similar dilemma in 2016, when weighing whether to support Trump or Hillary Clinton. That year, we found an acceptable alternative in Libertarian Gary Johnson, the former New Mexico governor.

This year, there is no capable third-party option, though we had hoped the No Labels movement would produce one. Unfortunately, that promising effort fizzled. Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the only candidate to meet with the editorial board, bowed out. The remaining minor party candidates are unconvincing.

The 2024 nominees from the Republican and Democratic parties are even less appealing than those presented in 2016 and 2020. Selecting one would betray the standards we set in those previous elections.

We believe it is a serious matter to attach our name to political candidates and recommend them to readers who have placed their trust in us to offer sound advice based on a set of long-established principles. We cannot support either Harris or Trump, candidates whose values and aspirations for America we do not share.

Why not Donald Trump?

The Detroit News has been a conservative newspaper since its founding in 1873. But we have never viewed Trump as a conservative. He is a populist who eschews principles in the quest for power.

We were appalled by Trump's big-spending ways as president. Under his watch, federal debt rose by \$7.8 billion. While we backed his tax cuts and regulatory reforms, which helped keep the economy afloat during the COVID pandemic, they should have been matched by spending reductions. In Trump's first three years alone, the yearly federal deficit increased 46% before more than tripling in his final COVID-plagued year in office.

As for national security, Trump offended the vital intelligence community and military leadership with a series of blunders. He repudiated legitimate concerns about Russia's unprecedented involvement in the 2016 campaign—separate from the Russia collusion investigation—downplaying a significant threat for fears it might delegitimize his victory. His efforts to secure the border were admirable, though his char-

See **CANDIDATES** on Page 15



Can faith in elections be restored? It's worth trying

Former Representative Liz Cheney campaigned with Vice President Kamala Harris this week as Harris seeks to win non-MAGA Republican votes in battleground states. Cheney has put herself on the line for democracy perhaps more than any Republican in America. But she's not alone.

Days before the 2020 election, longtime Republican election lawyer Benjamin Ginsberg took to the Washington Post to blast his party's presidential nominee for spreading lies about voter fraud and angling to suppress Democratic votes. "Proof of systemic fraud has become the Loch Ness Monster of the Republican Party," wrote Ginsberg, whose career up to that point had been every bit as partisan as Cheney's once was. "People have spent a lot of time looking for it, but it doesn't exist."

Ginsberg couldn't have known then that the worst was yet to come. The fallout from Trump's perfidy, including his attempted overthrow of the constitutional order, continues to rend the nation's civic, political and moral fabric. While Cheney is out on the hustings, Ginsberg is busy doing his own repair work. He and Democratic election lawyer Robert Bauer, former President Barack Obama's White House counsel and Ginsberg's frequent foe, have joined forces to try to bolster faith in elections.

Their group, Pillars of the Community, connects civic leaders with election officials in electoral battlegrounds. "Our goal is to get community leaders from across the political spectrum together with election officials, to give those leaders, who might have questions or be skeptical about the election system, the chance to really kick the tires," Ginsberg said in a telephone interview. "Faith leaders, veterans, first responders, business leaders, labor leaders are generally the group."

In September, Pillars of the Community held an "Ask Me Anything" town hall in Arizona where community members could pose questions to Maricopa County Recorder Stephen Richer, a Republican, who has been vilified by Trumpists for having confirmed the integrity of Arizona's 2020 election.

A similar event in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, earlier this month brought officials including Philadelphia City Commissioner Seth Bluestein, another Republican, to the middle of the state. An October CBS News/YouGov poll found that 47% of Trump voters believe—or at least say they do—that there will be widespread fraud in the 2024 election. According to the poll, the two areas where Republicans most expect fraud are "major cities and urban areas" and "in minority communities"—in other words, places like Philadelphia.

"You know the allegation in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin

By **FRANCIS WILKINSON**

Bloomberg Opinion

Francis Wilkinson is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering U.S. politics and policy. Previously, he was executive editor for the Week and a writer for Rolling Stone.



and Georgia is going to be that the big urban jurisdiction is the problem," Ginsberg said.

Bluestein told me that he spent time in Harrisburg "explaining how the process works so that the people at the event can have confidence that the elections are being run fairly and they have the information they need to communicate that to their constituencies. There were a lot of questions about the ballot-canvassing process, about the security around drop boxes and overall preparation for the election," Bluestein said. "They definitely asked good questions that I think they legitimately wanted to hear the answers to. Whether their constituencies will accept that or not, I'm not sure."

The Rev. Bradley Mattson, rector of Hope Episcopal Church in Manheim, Pennsylvania, was an attendee. "These officials, representing both urban centers and central Pennsylvania, devoted hours to answering questions from local community leaders about the safeguards in our election system," he wrote in a local paper, adding that he is convinced that Pennsylvania elections are fair.

Such drops of truth compete with Trump's ocean of lies, of course. Trump's demagoguery is backed by an extensive propaganda infrastructure stretching from Fox News, which paid a \$787.5 million settlement for spreading lies about Dominion Voting Systems and the 2020 election, to right-wing podcasts and Russian disinformation. Yet failing to confront the lies amounts to democratic surrender.

Ginsberg hasn't given up on his co-partisans—not even MAGA. On Jan. 6, he was in a Washington television studio overlooking the city. He could see police reinforcements headed to the US Capitol. "During that whole period, there was a constant flow of MAGA red-bedecked people not going into the Capitol but walking away from it," Ginsberg recalled. "It's those people who we hope will listen to what we're saying and what our pillars are saying. That's the target audience on the right."

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Between the immensities

The BIG T.O.E.— THEORY OF EVERYTHING

Inspiration-song titles, lyrics, quotes:

“Everything’s Coming Up Roses”—Ethel Merman
“Everything Is Beautiful”—Ray Stevens
“Everything Has Changed”—Taylor Swift
“Uptight (Everything’s Alright)”—Stevie Wonder

Development/themes notes:

Many 21st century cosmologists and astrophysicists are searching for a Theory of Everything. Some have suggested a combination of Einstein’s Theory of Relativity and Quantum Theory may be a possible answer to that query. Isaac Newton theorized gravity in Principia Mathematica Albert Einstein theorized relativity with E=MC squared Quantum theory explains the nature and behavior of matter and energy on the atomic and subatomic level. Quantum physics studies the smallest things in the universe. The word quantum is Latin for “amount”. So a definition for quantum is the “smallest possible piece of anything”. Then for us mere ‘mortals’ there is ‘everything’ we can see here on Earth, our galaxy and universe. The cosmologists claim we see less than 5% of our universe. Dark matter and dark energy make up the rest. And those two aspects of the darkness out there have yet to be defined. They are working

on it and use quantum mechanics to help them find it. So does ‘everything’ exclude anything? It must include ‘nothing’ and ‘something’ which are the subjects of the previous two poems in this trilogy on ‘nothing, something and everything’. So the theoretical pursuit continues with some particle string theorists (Brian Greene among them) claiming there may be some more particles smaller than strings. Until they may be found even though they are so small we will never see them we must be content to abide by wise words of my maternal grandmother, (who made great apple pies with fruit gathered courtesy of Issac Newton’s gravity theory found in Principia Mathematica), “Wait to see.” Parallel with Zen thought we continue stumbling through life’s parks, stumbling with neutrinos and quarks passing through us, all Bozo’s on this bus. No muss and not much fuss. Count me in. Lose some then win. Let us all begin. Again and...

Recapitulation /coda; notes and quotes:

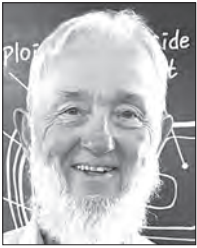
From Alexander Pope, b.1688 - d.1744. Pope was according to Sir Joshua Reynolds account, “about four feet six high; very humpbacked and deformed...”. The following are the last lines in “The Dunciad in Four Book” printed October 1743. He died months later on May 30, 1744. How prescient he seems to be now in the 21st century of what many scientists believe is our future universal fate. Interested readers might also like to check out Chaos Theory summarized by Konrad Lorenz as, “Chaos: When the present determines the future but the approximate

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey Connolly aka “Pepe Batbon” is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is the Poet Laureate of Tinian and enjoys stargazing.



present does not approximately determine the future.”

The last 17 lines of Dunciad IV by Alexander Pope

Art after art goes out, and all is night.
See skulking Truth to her old cavern fled,
Philosophy, that leaned on Heaven before,
Shrinks to her second cause, and is no more.
Physic of Metaphysic begs defence,
And Metaphysic calls for aid on Sense!
See Mystery to Mathematics fly!
In vain! they gaze, turn giddy, rave and die.
Religion blushing veils her sacred fires,
And unawares Morality expires.
Nor public Flame, nor private, dares to shine;
Nor human Spark is left, nor Glimpse divine!
Lo! thy dread Empire, Chaos! is restored;
Light dies before thy uncreating word:
Thy hand, great Anarch! lets the curtain fall;
And universal Darkness buries All.”

CANDIDATES

From page 14

acterizations of those seeking entry to the U.S., as well as those protesting excessive force by police, were misguided.

On the world stage, Trump was often clumsy, alienating our NATO allies in his well-intentioned efforts to have them contribute meaningfully to their own defense. His erraticism did tend to keep our enemies in check. Russia, China and Iran were not nearly as bold during his presidency as they have been during the Biden-Harris administration. His Abraham Accords marked the most substantive moves toward stability in the Middle East in decades.

As president, he oversaw—until the pandemic—a period of falling unemployment across all demographic groups, admirable economic growth and a return to America of companies from overseas.

In this campaign, he is, in his own crude way, raising important alarms about the head-long rush to electrify America’s vehicle fleet, and the threat it presents to Michigan’s automobile industry.

The decision to disqualify Trump from consideration is not primarily about policy. We agree with much of his platform—with the big exception of his wrong-headed obsession with trade tariffs.

As it has been from the time he first walked onto the political stage, with Trump it’s all about character, an area in which he runs a severe deficit.

The former president debased the office with his childish, bullying behavior. His incivility, insults, name-calling and mean-spirited rhetoric set an ugly tone that has impacted our national discourse. He’s driven good people out of government and the Republican Party and many well-qualified people are less likely to serve a second Trump term.

Trump is an egomaniac, given to vindictiveness and a distorted sense of destiny. Those are dangerous qualities in a commander-in-chief.

We also worry about Trump’s age. He would reenter the White House at age 78, topping Joe Biden by five months as the oldest president to begin a term. We don’t need a replay to recognize the toll declining faculties can take on someone sitting in the world’s hottest seat.

His affinity for tyrants and despots, both past and present, is unsettling.

Ultimately, though, nothing can overcome his efforts to overturn the 2020 election and the events of Jan. 6, 2021, when Trump stood before an angry mob outside the U.S. Capitol and urged it toward insurrection to preserve for himself an office he’d lost.

In his ill-advised effort to delegitimize the 2020 election, Trump strained the national fabric acting in his own self-interest.

We have no confidence that he would—to use his own phrase—put America first should he return to the Oval Office.

And now, armed with the broad presidential immunity affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court, there is legitimate concern the checks and balances that limited Trump in his first term will not contain him in a second.

These concerns make him an unacceptable choice.

Why not Kamala Harris?

We can’t say this with enough emphasis: Had Democrats chosen a candidate who was not so far left of the middle of American politics, we eagerly could have supported their nominee.

Instead, they upended their own nominating process to replace President Joe Biden with Harris by acclamation of the party’s power brokers.

That Harris is not running away with a race against one of the most broadly detested men to ever serve as president speaks to the weakness of her candidacy. Should she lose, it will be because voters, as indicated by current polls, don’t trust her to manage their top concerns of inflation, immigration and crime.

And why would they? She was, by her own description, a central player in the administration that made at least two of those problems worse.

Her pitch to voters is, “I’m not Donald Trump, and I’m not Joe Biden.” So, who is she? Her campaign is crafted to shield her from scrutiny. She has adopted a set of platitudes to avoid revealing herself.

She claims not to be the Kamala Harris of her 2020 presidential bid, when she advocated for decriminalizing illegal border crossings, ending private health insurance, reconsidering spending on police, banning fracking and other far-left positions. Nor, in her telling, is she the Kamala Harris who was ranked as the second most liberal member of the U.S. Senate, behind Bernie Sanders.

She is running against her past, presenting herself now as moderate, without offering an explanation for what led to her radical transformation. Sanders reassured progressive voters that Harris is merely saying what she must to get elected. We believe him and fear she will not just extend the ruinous Biden policies but make them worse. Harris wants to have it both ways on her record as vice president. She boasts of being the “last person in the room” when key decisions were made by the Biden team. But she also wants to walk away from the consequences of those decisions, including the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Harris shares responsibility for the highest inflation rate in 40 years and appears not to understand the cause. She proposes more spending that risks even higher prices and a larger deficit.

Her plan to give first time homebuyers a \$25,000 down payment from the federal Treasury will immediately make housing more expensive. Her proposal to bring down grocery costs through price-fixing disregards that such experiments have always led to price spikes and shortages.

These are the instincts of a socialist, and we fear they will

guide her agenda.

Harris also must be accountable for helping cover up the physical and mental decline of President Joe Biden over the past year. She says she met with him regularly and assured the public he was just fine. Keeping Biden in the race so long benefitted Harris, who then easily secured the nomination with little public input.

This leads to our concerns about her commitment to democratic norms. While perhaps not overt as the threat posed by Trump, we find her openness to expanding and stacking the Supreme Court and past willingness to eliminate the Senate filibuster for specific legislation troubling inclinations. So, too, is the Biden-Harris administration’s disregard for the Supreme Court’s ruling that the president cannot unilaterally dismiss student loan debt.

We can’t be certain that the Republic will be safer in her hands.

Harris has in her long career in government stood for the power of the government over the rights of the individual. Her warning to gun owners in 2019 that regulators could enter their homes to enforce safe storage laws is indicative of how she views civil liberties when they clash against progressive priorities. The vice president bears considerable responsibility for allowing more than eight million undocumented immigrants into the country, an influx that will challenge America’s security, strain its social network and distort its labor markets for decades to come.

Thus far in her campaign, Harris has not laid out an agenda that would change the current trajectory of the nation. Americans can ill afford another four years that mirror the past four.

America deserves better

While we can’t recommend either Donald Trump or Kamala Harris in this election, one of them will win on Nov. 5. Our hope is the victor will finally embrace cooperative governing in Washington, put an end to hyper-partisanship and truly be a president for all Americans.

We empathize with those voters who, like us, find sitting on the sidelines unsatisfying. We can only recommend you vote your values.

We are not the first to ask: In a country of more than 300 million people, can’t we do better than these two?

Of course we can. But it will require breaking the hold Republicans and Democrats have on the American political system. Voters must be willing to support a third-party candidate, should one arise, who offers stronger qualifications than those with an R or D behind their names. That candidate is not on our ballots.

Americans are weary of voting for candidates they know don’t measure up. This is a great country. Its citizens deserve great leaders.

We can only hope the winner of this election will be touched, to paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, by the better angels of their nature.

Life & Style

Offbeat comic actor Teri Garr has died

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Teri Garr, the quirky comedy actor who rose from background dancer in Elvis Presley movies to co-star of such favorites as “Young Frankenstein” and “Tootsie,” has died. She was 79.

Garr died Tuesday of multiple sclerosis “surrounded by family and friends,” said publicist Heidi Schaeffer. Garr battled other health problems in recent years and underwent an operation in January 2007 to repair an aneurysm.

Admirers took to social media in her honor, with writer-director Paul Feig calling her

“truly one of my comedy heroes. I couldn’t have loved her more” and screenwriter Cinco Paul saying: “Never the star, but always shining. She made everything she was in better.”

The actor, who was sometimes credited as Terri, Terry or Terry Ann during her long career, seemed destined for show business from her childhood.

Her father was Eddie Garr, a well-known vaudeville comedian; her mother was Phyllis Lind, one of the original high-kicking Rockettes at New York’s Radio City Mu-

sic Hall. Their daughter began dance lessons at 6 and by 14 was dancing with the San Francisco and Los Angeles ballet companies.

She was 16 when she joined the road company of “West Side Story” in Los Angeles, and as early as 1963 she began appearing in bit parts in films.

She recalled in a 1988 interview how she won the “West Side Story” role. After being dropped from her first audition, she returned a day later in different clothes and was accepted.

From there, Garr found

steady work dancing in movies, and she appeared in the chorus of nine Presley films, including “Viva Las Vegas,” “Roustabout” and “Clambake.”

She also appeared on numerous television shows, including “Star Trek,” “Dr. Kildare” and “Batman,” and was a featured dancer on the rock ‘n’ roll music show “Shindig,” the rock concert performance T.A.M.I. and a cast member of “The Sonny and Cher Comedy Hour.”

Her big film break came as Gene Hackman’s girlfriend in 1974’s Francis Ford Cop-



AP
American actress Teri Garr is seen in this April 1987 photo in Los Angeles, California.

pola thriller “The Conversation.” That led to an interview with Mel Brooks, who said he would hire her for the role of

Gene Wilder’s German lab assistant in 1974’s “Young Frankenstein” — if she could speak with a German accent.

Robert Downey Jr. says he ‘intends to sue’ all future executives who use his AI replica

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Robert Downey Jr. doesn’t think Marvel executives would ever recreate his portrayal of Tony Stark using artificial intelligence. But if they did, he would lawyer up—even posthumously.

On a recent episode of the “On With Kara Swisher” podcast, the Oscar-winning actor said he intends to “sue all future executives” who allow an AI-created version of him. Speaking about his role as Iron Man, Downey said he does not want his likeness recreated by AI technology.

“I am not worried about them hijacking my character’s soul because there’s like three or four guys and gals who make all the decisions there anyway and they would never do that to me, with or without me,” Downey said.

Swisher noted that those executives would eventually be replaced.



“Well, you’re right,” Downey said. “I would like to here state that I intend to sue all future executives just on spec.”

“You’ll be dead,” Swisher said.

Downey replied: “But my law firm will still be very active.”

Representatives for Marvel Studios and for Downey did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The discussion comes amid the Hollywood video game performers’ strike, which began in July after more than 18 months of negotiations over a new interactive media agreement with game industry giants broke down over artificial intelligence protections.

AP
Melora Hardin, left, and Robert Downey Jr. appear during a performance of “McNeal,” in New York.

Francis Ford Coppola to receive AFI Life Achievement Award

NEW YORK (AP)—Francis Ford Coppola will receive the 50th AFI Life Achievement Award, the American Film Institute announced Tuesday.

Coppola, who recently released his long-in-development epic “Megalopolis,” will be presented with the award in a gala tribute at Los Angeles’ Dolby Theatre on April 26. The 85-year-old filmmaker will be the 50th recipient of the award first handed out to John Ford in 1973.

“Francis Ford Coppola is a peerless artist—one who has created seminal works in the canon of American film, and has also inspired generations of filmmakers who now embody his artistry and his independent spirit,” said the producer Kathleen Kennedy, chair of the AFI board of trustees.

Coppola released “Megalopolis,” a Roman epic set in

modern-day New York, in September. The film, which first premiered at the Cannes Film Festival, drew mixed reviews from critics and flopped with audiences. Coppola, though, has maintained he was compelled to make “Megalopolis” as an artist, not as a businessman. He self-financed the film.

“Everyone’s so worried about money. I say: Give me less money and give me more friends,” Coppola told The Associated Press in an earlier interview. “Friends are valuable. Money is very fragile. You could have a million marks in Germany at the end of World War II and you wouldn’t be able to buy a loaf of bread.”

Last year’s AFI honoree was Nicole Kidman. Other recent recipients include John Williams, Mel Brooks, Denzel Washington and Julie Andrews.

Affection for shorter man grows after decades apart

DEAR ABBY: I dated a colleague when I was 22 but broke it off because I couldn’t deal with the fact that he was several inches shorter than me. I did not tell him why. I just said, “It’s me, not you.”

I am now in my 60s, have had a very successful career, never married and see online that he became a distinguished researcher. In his online picture, he looks like a sweet older man now, and I would give anything to reconnect with him. Would this be foolish?

Was I too insensitive at 22 to understand that I likely hurt him? Do you think he would forgive me if I got in touch with him now? He lives far away, so an in-person meeting would be out of the question in the near term. Would an email be OK? He’s in his early 70s and not married.

STUPID THEN IN OHIO

DEAR ‘STUPID’: At 22, you weren’t insensitive; you were shallow. Look at this from that man’s perspective. What is he supposed to think when he receives an email 40 years after a colleague dumped him by saying, “It’s me, not you”? Remember, as successful as he is now, he is not any taller. My advice is to leave it alone, find someone you can be physically attracted to who lives geographically closer, appreciates how successful you have been in your career

and is open to a relationship.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a childless 70-year-old man. Every year around the anniversary of my brother’s death, some relatives get together and travel to his hometown to celebrate him. We have a remembrance at the cemetery and go to Mass together on Sunday. We also go out for meals and drinks. There are three generations involved now, the youngest of the kids being 10.

This year, my cousin’s son and his wife had a baby. We’re all happy for them. A couple of days ago, I sent a group text on our family thread saying I didn’t think it was a good idea to take an infant on this trip. I explained that I felt it would distract from the purpose of the get-together. Well, my cousin is offended and won’t tell me why. I carefully worded my message so I didn’t say anything negative. Was I wrong?

TRADITIONALIST IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR TRADITIONALIST: You wrote that the purpose of this get-together is for the family to honor your deceased brother and celebrate his life together. When you posted your message on the family thread, did you expect your cousin’s son and his wife to skip the event and stay home with their baby? Their baby is part of the family and may be too young to be without their mother. While your care-

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



fully worded message reflects your feelings, it was out of line, and I can see why it upset your cousin.

■■■

A NOTE TO PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN: If your little ones will be out trick-or-treating tonight, please be sure they are supervised to assure their safety. Happy Halloween, everyone!

LOVE, ABBY

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Yanks beat Dodgers to force World Series Game 5



NEW YORK

(AP)—Fifteen years after little Anthony Volpe watched the Yankees parade with the World Series trophy, he saved their season and kept alive hopes for an improbable title.

New York had moved closer to getting swept in the World Series when Freddie Freeman hit another first-inning home run.

Volpe, a New York native whose family idolizes the pinstripes going back generations, turned on a knee-high slider and perhaps reshaped the Series, too. His third-inning grand slam sparked the Yankees to an 11-4 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Tuesday night that forced a Game 5.

"The place was shaking. I felt the ground literally shaking," Yankees catcher Austin Wells said.

Wells and Gleyber Torres added homers for the Yankees, who broke open the game with a five-run eighth.

New York, which had scored just seven runs in the first three games, had some of its swagger back. Wells spoke



New York Yankees' Anthony Volpe celebrates his grand slam home run against the Los Angeles Dodgers during the third inning in Game 4 of the baseball World Series, Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2024, in New York.

after the game wearing a "Fully Operational Death Star" Yankees T-shirt, referring to general manager Brian Cashman's 2018 quip.

Fans in the sellout crowd of 49,354 chanted Volpe's name during the ninth inning.

"It's like you finally got to see the top blow off Yankee Stadium in a World Series game," Aaron Boone said after his first World Series win as New York's manager. "When Anthony hits that ball, it was like fun to see Yankee

Stadium erupt."

Wells said the dire situation after Monday's loss had relieved the pressure.

"Why not go out tomorrow and have fun?" he described as the mood.

Freeman homered for his sixth straight Series game when he deposited a slider from rookie Luis Gil into the right-field short porch following Mookie Betts' one-out double. He became the first player to homer in the first four games of a World Series and his streak of long balls in six straight games is one more than Houston's George Springer 2017 and '19.

"I'll look back on it after hopefully we win and get this thing done tomorrow," Freeman said. "Pretty cool. Obviously, hopefully I can keep it going tomorrow."

Game 5 is Wednesday night, with the Yankees ace Gerrit Cole and the Dodgers' Jack Flaherty meeting in a rematch of Game 1.

Seeking to become the first team to overcome a 3-0 Se-

ries deficit, New York surged ahead 5-2 on Alex Verdugo's RBI grounder in the second and Volpe's drive against Daniel Hudson.

"All it takes is just one swing," Yankees captain Aaron Judge said.

Volpe sent Hudson's first pitch into the left-field seats.

"I pretty much blacked out as soon as I saw it go over the fence," Volpe said.

A Gold Glove shortstop in his second big league season, the 23-year-old Volpe also doubled and became the first player in Series history with a grand slam and a pair of stolen bases in one game. He was 8 when the Yankees last won the Series.

Volpe scored New York's first run when he walked after falling behind 0-2 in the second inning. He made a baserunning blunder when he headed back to second to tag up and failed to score on Wells' double off the center-field wall—pounding his own leg in anger. Verdugo followed with an RBI grounder.

"They're going to fight," Betts said. "If you made it this far, you have a resilient team that's going to fight the whole time."

Los Angeles closed within 6-4 in a two-run fifth that included Will Smith's homer off Gil and an RBI grounder by Freeman. Despite a sprained right ankle, Freeman beat a relay to avoid an inning-ending double play on what originally was ruled an out but was reversed in a video review.

Wells hit a second-deck homer in the sixth against Landon Knack, and Verdugo added another run-scoring grounder in the eighth—capping an 11-pitch at-bat—ahead of Torres' three-run homer off Brent Honeywell.

Tim Hill, winning pitcher Clay Holmes, Mark Leiter Jr., Luke Weaver and Tim Mayza strung together five innings of one-hit scoreless relief with seven strikeouts, and the Yankees avoided what would have

been their first losing Series sweep since 1976.

"As far as outcomes, to have six guys in your 'pen that are feeling good, rested, I feel good about that," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said.

Twenty-one of the previous 24 teams to take 3-0 Series leads went on to sweeps, all but the 1910 Philadelphia Athletics against the Chicago Cubs, the 1937 Yankees against the New York Giants and the 1970 Baltimore Orioles against the Cincinnati Reds. All three of those Series ended in five games.

The 2004 Boston Red Sox, sparked by a stolen base by Roberts, are the only team to overcome a 3-0 deficit in any round, beating the Yankees in the AL Championship Series.

Judge drove in his first run of the Series with an RBI single in the eighth and is 2 for 15 in the four games. Dodgers sensation Shohei Ohtani also is 2 for 15 after going 1 for 4 with a single, his first hit since partially separating his left shoulder in Game 2.

New York stopped a seven-game Series losing streak against the Dodgers dating to 1981. The Yankees got their first seven RBIs from the bottom three hitters in their batting order, Volpe, Wells and Verdugo, who had entered 4 for 32 with three RBIs in the Series.

Volpe was interviewed after the game by former Yankees captain Derek Jeter, now a Fox broadcaster.

"It's my dream, but it was all my friends' dreams, all my cousins' dreams, probably my sister's dream, too. But winning the World Series was first and foremost. by far. Nothing else compares. So still got a lot of work to do," Volpe said.

Former Boston star David Ortiz, also a Fox commentator, gave Volpe a shirt.

"I've got it in my locker," Volpe said. "I can't wear it. It's got him and Red Sox stuff on it."

Fans in Shohei Ohtani's Japanese hometown watch Dodgers reach brink of World Series title

OSHU CITY, Japan (AP)—Signs around Shohei Ohtani's hometown in northern Japan proclaim him "The Pride of Oshu City."

They might need to add "World Series Champion" soon.

Hundreds of fans filed into a public viewing center in Ohtani's hometown on Tuesday morning—the country is 13 hours ahead of New York—to watch the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Yankees 4-2 to take a 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven World Series. Those fans will surely be tuned in again Wednesday morning when Ohtani and the Dodgers have a chance to clinch the championship.

"I'm extremely happy because the Dodgers—with Ohtani—have won three in a row and are one win away from the World Series title," Shoichi Segawa said.

Ohtani was hitless in the game, but fans got what they came for over a long morning of watching baseball: a Dodgers victory.

They lined up outside the Oshu City Cultural Center, a 500-seat auditorium, on a perfect fall morning to watch their local hero in a live telecast.

Many came dressed in

Dodger Blue—caps or jerseys—and were supplied with various noisemakers, including thunder sticks. The hall was adorned with posters announcing Ohtani as "The Pride of Oshu City."

Ohtani, playing two days after dislocating his left shoulder in Game 2, drew a walk on his first at-bat. That drew wild cheers from the 250 fans attending, who chanted "Go, Go, Shohei." Then came even more cheers when the Dodgers took a 2-0 lead on Freddie Freeman's home run.

"He's more like a Japanese treasure than just a local (treasure)," said fan Hiromitsu Kikuchi. "I think he has passed beyond the hometown and is more like world-class. We have never had a star player like this before from our hometown."

Among the mostly older fans were about 20 children from the kindergarten that Ohtani attended. They came equipped with small flags emblazoned with Ohtani's smiling face.

Several fans said they were worried Ohtani might not play but set out from home when they got the good news.

"I came to see Ohtani because the television news

reported that he would play," said fan Tadashi Onodera. "It's fantastic. We are proud to have such a player from our hometown."

This is the town where Ohtani played Little League, starred as a pitcher and hitter at Hanamaki Higashi High School, and became the favorite son of Iwate Prefecture, a mountainous region abutting the Pacific Ocean.

His hometown is located about 300 miles (500 kilometers) north of Tokyo, a largely rural place far from the capital, its hundreds of skyscrapers and high-end prosperity.

All eyes at the viewing were on the Dodgers superstar—and his left shoulder. His injury briefly cast a pall and flipped Japan's mood from magic to morose.

Then came relief. The magic returned as Dodgers manager Dave Roberts started Ohtani as the designated hitter and leadoff hitter in Game 3, what local fans and all of baseball wanted to see.

"I was concerned (about the injury), but believed it would be okay," said Matsutoshi Honmyo, another local fan. "I would say he is a hero."

Fans ejected after one pries ball out of Mookie Betts' glove at World Series

NEW YORK (AP)—Two fans at Yankee Stadium were ejected from Game 4 of the World Series after one pried a foul ball out of the glove of Los Angeles Dodgers right fielder Mookie Betts on Tuesday night.

Betts leaped at the wall in foul territory and initially caught Gleyber Torres' pop up in the first inning, but a fan in the first row with a gray Yankees' road jersey grabbed Betts' glove with both hands and pulled the ball out. Another fan grabbed Betts' non-glove hand.

Betts reacted angrily, and Torres was immediately called out on fan interference.

"When it comes to the person in play, it doesn't matter," Betts said. "We lost. It's irrelevant. I'm fine. He's fine. Everything's cool. We lost the game and that's what I'm kind of focused on. We got to turn the page and get ready for tomorrow."

The Dodgers had a two-run lead at the time on Freddie Freeman's two-run homer, but the Dodgers were unable to complete a sweep and took an 11-4 loss to the Yankees.

"I've never seen anything like it," said Dodgers rookie pitcher Ben Casparius. "It's pretty interesting. It was obviously very early in the game so I think it kind of set the tone."

It was the second time Torres had an at-bat impacted by fan interference this World Series. With two outs in the ninth inning of Game 1 at Dodger Stadium, Torres hit a fly ball to left field, and a fan reached over and caught the ball. Torres was awarded a double.

Torres later hit a three-run homer to right field for New York's final runs.

Mavericks fend off Timberwolves in West finals rematch



MINNEAPOLIS

(AP)—Kyrie Irving scored 16 of his 35 points in the third quarter, Luka Doncic had a late surge to finish with 24 points, nine assists and eight rebounds, and the Dallas Mavericks held off the Minnesota Timberwolves 120-114 on Tuesday in the first rematch of last season's Western Conference finals.

Anthony Edwards had 24 of his 37 points in the first quarter to set a Target Center record, going 7 for 13 from 3-point range. He also went just 6 for 12 from the free-throw line.

Doncic put his stamp on the game with a 33-footer with 1:04 left to stretch the lead to eight points, barking at fans as he skipped back to the bench after a timeout. That was his only make in eight tries from behind the arc.

P.J. Washington added 17 points and eight rebounds for the Mavericks, who played on back-to-back nights after beating Utah 110-102 at home on Monday. Doncic went 5 for 22 from the floor and 1 for 9 from 3-point range for 15 points against the Jazz.



Dallas Mavericks guard Kyrie Irving (11) works toward the basket as Minnesota Timberwolves guard Anthony Edwards (5) defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2024, in Minneapolis.

Julius Randle had 20 points, seven rebounds and seven assists for the Timberwolves.

With Doncic in a mini-slump, not only did the Mavericks get a superstar performance from Irving, the other half of their leading duo, they were especially active on defense with 12 steals.

The breathtaking first quar-

ter by Edwards gave way to some sloppy stretches. Minnesota had 20 turnovers that led to 25 points for Dallas.

Irving went 6 for 8 from 3-point range, including a swish with 2:31 left and Randle tightly guarding him at the top of the key after the Timberwolves pulled within 109-107.

Edwards has five-plus

3-pointers in all four games this season, the longest streak in team history.

NUGGETS 144, NETS 139, OT

NEW YORK (AP)—Nikola Jokic had 29 points, 18 rebounds and 16 assists, becoming only the second player in NBA history to reach those totals in a game, and Denver beat the

Brooklyn in overtime.

Jamal Murray and Aaron Gordon each scored 24 points for the Nuggets, while Russell Westbrook added 22.

Dennis Schroder scored 28 points for Brooklyn, which led by 17 in the second quarter. Cam Thomas scored 26 and Cam Johnson had 20. Nic Claxton added 16 points and 12 rebounds.

Thomas gave the Nets a 127-125 lead with the first basket of overtime, but the Nuggets scored the next eight points and led the rest of the way.

KINGS 113, JAZZ 96

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Domantas Sabonis had 28 points and 11 rebounds, De'Aaron Fox added 19 points and Sacramento dominated Utah.

Jordan Clarkson scored 21 points and John Collins tallied 18 for the Jazz, who opened the season with four straight defeats and lost starting forwards Taylor Hendricks (broken leg) and Lauri Markkanen (back spasms) on back-to-back nights.

The Jazz have lost their last two home games by a combined 58 points. Rookie Kyle Filipowski got his first extended playing time and

scored 12 points.

DeMar DeRozan had 20 points and eight assists for the Kings, who have won two straight after starting 0-2. Kevin Huerter and Keegan Murray each scored 14 for the Kings, who led by as many 27 points.

WARRIORS 124, PELICANS 106

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Buddy Hield scored a season-best 28 points, Brandin Podziemski had 19 points and fueled a furious second-half comeback, and Golden State rallied from 17 down to beat New Orleans.

Zion Williamson had a season-high 31 points on 12-for-20 shooting and eight rebounds for New Orleans. Brandon Ingram scored 30 points.

Jonathan Kuminga, who started the initial three games for Golden State but was averaging 8.0 points on 33.3% shooting, came off the bench to score 17. Reserve Lindy Waters III had 21 points and nine rebounds in his best game yet for Golden State.

The short-handed Warriors needed everything from everybody with starters Stephen Curry and Andrew Wiggins sidelined.

76ers rule out injured Paul George and Joel Embiid for a fourth straight game

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP)—Joel Embiid and Paul George are 0 for 4 for the 76ers' season.

Embiid's and George's season debuts remain on hold for the Philadelphia 76ers, and both players will miss Wednesday's game against Detroit with knee injuries.

Embiid and George participated in portions of Tuesday's practice and their playing status will be reassessed later in the week.

Sixers coach Nick Nurse declined to elaborate on their health and potential timeline to return to the lineup.

"We want these guys to play and we want them to be healthy and we want them to play great and we want them to play great all season," Nurse said following practice. "Then my main focus is, I've got to do the job that I've got to do. I've got to try to get this team to play as good as it can tomorrow night. That takes a big chunk of my focus."

George has yet to make his Sixers debut after he signed a four-year, \$212 million contract as a free agent this summer. The 34-year-old has a bone bruise but did not suffer any structural damage when he hyperextended his left knee during a preseason game.

A nine-time All-Star, George was injured when his knee buckled on a de-

fensive play.

Embiid, who won an Olympic gold medal in Paris with Team USA, has been out with what the team calls left knee management. The 30-year-old did not play in the preseason.

Embiid's absence from the season opener raised suspicion in the NBA, and the league on Tuesday fined the team \$100,000 for public statements, including by president of basketball operations Daryl Morey and by Nurse, that were inconsistent with Embiid's health status and in violation of NBA rules, including the league's player participation policy. It found the participation policy was not violated.

Embiid and George missed both games of a road trip against Toronto and Indiana. Without them, the 76ers are 1-2 headed into Wednesday's home game against the Pistons. Tyrese Maxey scored 10 of Philadelphia's 13 overtime points and finished with a season-high 45 to help the 76ers beat the Indiana Pacers 118-114 on Sunday for their first win of the season.

The 76ers also host Memphis on Saturday night.

Embiid was limited to 39 games last season, mostly because of knee surgery after tearing the meniscus in his left knee on Jan. 30 against Golden State. He returned for the

playoffs and was diagnosed with Bell's palsy during a first-round loss to the Knicks.

Embiid signed a \$193 million contract before training camp. The 76ers have failed to advance beyond the second round of the playoffs since 2001—in large part because Embiid has failed to stay healthy.

The Sixers finished 31-8 last season season with Embiid and 16-27 without him.

Embiid revealed ahead of training camp that he dropped about 25 to 30 pounds to stay in better condition for the season's grind. That includes not rushing back from any further issues with the knee.

Embiid was the No. 3 pick in the 2014 draft but missed his first two full seasons with injuries. Since his first full season in 2016, Embiid has played in 433 of a possible 804 regular-season games and only 59 of 67 possible playoff games.

Embiid sprained his right knee in the 2023 playoffs, which cost him games against Brooklyn and Boston. He missed two games in the second round in 2022 and another in the first round in 2021 with various injuries, on top of the two he missed to begin the 2018 playoffs with an orbital fracture and another in 2019, also with a knee problem.

Reeling Jazz try to move on after Hendricks' gruesome injury

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—The Utah Jazz have been emphasizing that this season will be centered on developing their young building blocks like forward Taylor Hendricks, but now he's likely gone for the season.

On Monday night, Hendricks ran down the court toward the baseline, stumbled and awkwardly fell on top of his leg. Without anyone in his vicinity, he broke his right fibula, dislocated his ankle and yelled in disbelief as he saw his foot going one direction and his leg the other.

Several Jazz players had tears in their eyes and covered their heads with towels during an extended break where the medical staff took Hendricks off on a stretcher. They lost to the Mavericks 110-102 and now face a rebuilding season without a defensive centerpiece.

"A bunch of us were visibly rattled. It was really hard to see," Utah coach Will Hardy said Tuesday. "Everybody processes those things differently. Everybody needs to pick each other up at different moments."

After the Jazz chose him at No. 9 in the 2023 draft, Hendricks spent about half his rookie campaign in the G League before breaking into the rotation later in the season. In the first three games

this season, Hendricks was in the starting lineup and taking the assignment of guarding the other team's most potent threat, shadowing the likes of Luka Doncic, Kyrie Irving and Ja Morant.

"There are some voids with Taylor that we now need to try and fill," Hardy said.

The Jazz staff is still determining an optimal surgery date with further testing. Similar injuries have taken a year or more for full recovery.

"Taylor is a pretty upbeat and positive person. So he is seemingly in good spirits. He's taking it all with a lot of maturity ... but I'm sure there will be moments of frustration," Hardy said about the impending rehabilitation. Hendricks' first offseason was focused on making the second-year leap and he spent most of his summer in Salt Lake City gaining muscle, agility and refining his shot.

"Your first season in the NBA, if you are in the rotation at all, gives you experience but the biggest thing it gives you is perspective that the world no longer revolves around you. You are trying to solidify yourself as an NBA player and you're probably taking on a different role that you've ever had on any team," Hardy said.

Utah guard Keyonte George mentioned how Hendricks willingly gave up offensive

opportunities use his energy on the defensive end. There isn't really any other player like that on the roster, but rookie Cody Williams, who stopped by Hendricks' house on his way to the arena Tuesday, stepped into the starting lineup against Sacramento.

"It's so sad. I don't think anyone really wants to get minutes that way," said Kyle Filipowski, who scored his first NBA points and finished with 12 points and eight rebounds.

For the foreseeable future, Hendricks will be busy recovering while the Jazz try to find their way.

"Everyone needs to pray for him and we need to be around him," center Walker Kessler said haltingly after Monday's game. "T is a really good dude and he's worked his tail off. We all care about T a lot, but the season doesn't stop."

The season indeed continued for the dejected Jazz without Hendricks on Tuesday with their fourth straight loss, this time to Sacramento 113-96 at home. To make things worse, Utah star Lauri Markkanen left the game at halftime with back spasms but it isn't expected to be serious.

"We have to recalibrate," Hardy said of plugging young players into new spots that they may not be prepared to handle.

Pats can't quite celebrate win over Jets with Maye in concussion protocol

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Even with a victory over the much-hated New York Jets and four-time NFL MVP

Aaron Rodgers, the New England Patriots couldn't celebrate too much.

First-round draft pick Drake Maye left the game in the first half after taking a helmet-to-helmet hit at the end of a run. He was placed in the NFL's concussion protocol, with no timetable on when he might be able to come back.

Coach Jerod Mayo said that Maye's status was "above my pay grade." An NFL player in the concussion protocol must be cleared by an independent neurological consultant before he can return to play.

"I'm not going to get too much into that, as far as Drake questions," Mayo said on Monday, a day after New England snapped a six-game losing streak by beating the Jets 25-22.

Maye scored his first NFL rushing touchdown when he beat New York linebacker Chazz Surratt to the pylon on a 17-yard run. He scrambled again near the end of the first quarter and went to slide but was hit by New York linebacker Jamien Sherwood.

Maye finished out the series—taking a sack and throwing two incomplete passes. Mayo said trainer Jim Whalen told him Maye had to go to the medical tent to be checked out.

"I was surprised," the coach said. "He threw a couple of good balls afterward, and I thought he was still pretty sharp in those regards. But obviously, it's above my pay grade as far as pulling him out of the game and putting him in the protocol."

Maye did not speak to reporters after the game. Jacoby Brissett replaced him and led the team on two go-ahead drives in the fourth quarter, setting up the game-winning touchdown with 22 seconds left.

What's working

Brissett lost four games in a row as a starter before he was replaced by Maye, so the victory off the bench was his first since Week 1. He was 15 of 24 for 132 yards, plus a 14-yard scramble on third-and-9 to keep the game-winning drive going.

"I don't look at it as redemption. I think this is a testament to me believing in myself and not y'all," Brissett said. "I was very fortunate to have this opportunity. To go out there and get a win with our guys, it was sweet. You can't put it into words. ... I'm not trying to be arrogant, but I'm very proud of myself today."

What needs work

The Patriots were called for three pass interference penalties in the game, two of them on the drive that led to the first New York touchdown. One of them bailed the Jets out after



New England Patriots quarterback Drake Maye (10) runs for a touchdown in front of New York Jets linebacker Chazz Surratt (55) in the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024, in Foxborough, Mass.

a third down incompleting from outside of field-goal range, and the other gave them the ball at the 2. (There was also an illegal use of hands penalty on the same drive.)

Stock up

Rhamondre Stevenson, who was demoted after fumbling in each of the first five games, carried 20 times — his most since Week 2. He only gained 48 yards, but he had two touchdowns, both showing the toughness that Mayo had said the team lacked.

"Early in the season, he had a hard

time keeping the ball," Mayo said. "I tip my hat to a guy like that who's able to — once he crosses the white line, nothing else really matters. And I'm so proud of him and what he's been able to do."

Stock down

The Patriots quarterbacks didn't get much help from their receivers, with Kayshon Boutte and Kendrick Boume each dropping two passes and Tyquan Thornton unable to hold onto a throw from Maye (though defensive back Jalen Mills did a nice job breaking it up, perhaps even a little early).

"They need to get better," Mayo said. "Those guys went out there, and they were open at times. The job of a receiver is to get open and catch the ball, and if you're really good, run with it afterward. So, they definitely have to get better, and they understand that."

Injuries

Maye's concussion would be a major setback if it not only keeps him out of games but prevents him from practicing.

Key number

24. The Patriots have beaten the Jets at least once in 24 straight seasons, the longest active streak in the NFL. The most recent time the Jets swept New England came in 2000 in coach Bill Belichick's first season with the Patriots.

Next step

The Patriots play the one-win Tennessee Titans on Sunday and could come away with their first two-game winning streak since Thanksgiving of 2022. New England is a 3-point favorite — the biggest spread for the team and only the second time all season they have been favored.

LADY

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hearts out. The matches were as intense as the cheering supporters in the bleachers, with each point sparking an eruption of cheers from both players and crowd alike.

The final set could've gone either way, with MHS drawing first blood and keeping pace with GCA. But errors on their end allowed the Lady Eagles to capitalize and lead, 7-3. MHS wasn't out for the count yet though and hard-hitting Erica Zanduetta helped them back within two, 7-9.

However, GCA's serves were the epitome of unhittable, as Eliane

Pagaduan took them from an 11-8 lead to within a point of victory at 14-10. Finally, the nail-biting and thrilling finals, which lasted well into the late evening, concluded with another championship added to GCA's repertoire.

MHS' roster included Rizza Relucio, Erica Zanduetta, Cassie Regan, Sheira Dela Rosa, Jayme Vargas, Airianna Estrada, Ella Hall, Fiona Regan, Savita Sikkell, and Charlotte Amano.

According to PSS Athletics director Nick Gross, GCA's championship win is their seventh in a row since interscholastic sports began at the beginning of his tenure in 2018.

Saures, who never doubted his

team, said of their win, "It feels good. We just needed to work harder and prepare because the other teams worked hard." Having to fight their way to the finals and face off against the top seed, he said, "We just had faith. We concentrated on our weaknesses and tried to fix that so we can correct our mistakes."

The strategy in their finals, he said, was to be ahead and land points early. "We needed points early so that they can gain confidence and be a little bit more comfortable when playing," said Saures. "We wanted to be ahead and correct our serving, receiving, and hitting along the way."

As for the season, he said, "It was great. It was just a short time

to practice, but the girls are really hard workers. They practiced on their own and my assistant coaches (Katriel Saures and Cecile Guevarra) helped out too. We had a game plan and we did it."

With their championship legacy that was started by GCA's longtime coach Cesar Libut still intact, he said, "I think the team knows where their heart is at in the game. I believe that every new group that's coming up, they don't want to throw that away, and they want to continue that legacy. They've worked hard since middle school to be better players in high school, because when they leave, they want to still hold that legacy."

CUKI

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from Guam. He detailed the evolution of his fight promotions, explaining how the original events—Trench Warz, Rites of Passage, and The Art of War—laid the groundwork for today's initiatives.

"After more than five years of inactivity due to typhoons and COVID-19, we reintroduced unarmed combat events in December 2023 with 'Ring of Fire.' Now, 'Cage of Fire' continues that legacy."

He emphasized the significance of the name "Cage of Fire," connecting it to personal and experiences. "The theme of 'fire' resonates with us, as we live in the Ring of Fire region of the world and our islands were formed by fire and lava. So, from utter fire, chaos, explosions, and destruction came our beautiful

islands we now call the Marianas," Alvarez explained.

"So the whole 'fire' theme just made sense to me, and I ended up embracing the fire and destruction it brought and used it for a positive toward our whole mission moving forward."

When asked about the criteria for selecting fighters, Alvarez noted, "We look for everyone and anyone who is interested in competing. Of course, to keep the integrity of our promotional events in check and to keep safety first and foremost, we have all interested combatants fill out our pre-fight screening and fighter questionnaire."

He added, "We make sure that all fighters are physically and mentally/emotionally stable and fit to compete."

Alvarez reiterated the importance of these events for the local combat sports community.

"Our motto is: 'We promote friend-

ship through fighting.' So, the way our events contribute to the sports community is we compete in the name of goodwill and ambassadorship through all our MMA events."

Over the years, fighters from various regions, including the CNMI, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Japan, and the Philippines have competed in his events, fostering a vibrant fighting spirit. Spectators can expect an exhilarating atmosphere filled with non-stop action.

"We bring the heat every time! Spectators can expect non-stop hard-hitting action from all fighters, beginner or pro," Alvarez promises, underscoring the commitment to delivering an unforgettable experience for fans.

Looking to the future, he remains optimistic. "We will continue to host our events as long as people are willing to compete. Our fighting history and competitive spirit

ensure a bright future for Trench Tech Purebred Saipan."

For those interested in competing, Alvarez offers valuable advice: "Everything starts with a positive mindset. Preparation is key! You must be physically, mentally, and emotionally prepared to compete in the cage."

He emphasizes, "I always tell this to my students: 'Fatigue makes cowards out of men.' So, train hard, stay prepared and have a positive mindset, and you will not only do good in the cage but more importantly, you will do good in life in general."

As the date approaches, the excitement for "Cage of Fire" is palpable. Whether you're a fighter ready to challenge yourself or a spectator eager to support your favorites, this event promises to be a memorable night in Saipan's combat sports history. For more information or to sign up, contact Alvarez at (670) 783-4MMA.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	4	0	1.000	—
New York	1	2	.333	2½
Philadelphia	1	2	.333	2½
Toronto	1	3	.250	3
Brooklyn	1	3	.250	3
Southeast Division				
Orlando	3	1	.750	—
Miami	2	1	.667	½
Atlanta	2	2	.500	1
Washington	1	2	.333	1½
Charlotte	1	2	.333	1½
Central Division				
Cleveland	4	0	1.000	—
Chicago	2	2	.500	2
Indiana	1	3	.250	3
Milwaukee	1	3	.250	3
Detroit	0	4	.000	4
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
Dallas	3	1	.750	—
Houston	2	2	.500	1
Memphis	2	2	.500	1
New Orleans	2	2	.500	1
San Antonio	1	2	.333	1½
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	3	0	1.000	—
Denver	2	2	.500	1½
Minnesota	2	2	.500	1½
Portland	1	3	.250	2½
Utah	0	4	.000	3½
Pacific Division				
Phoenix	3	1	.750	—
L.A. Lakers	3	1	.750	—
Golden State	3	1	.750	—
L.A. Clippers	2	1	.667	½
Sacramento	2	2	.500	1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Dodgers to
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**Pats can't quite
celebrate win over
Jets with Maye
in concussion
protocol**
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lady Eagles claw way to 7th v-ball title



LEIGH GASES

Seven-time champion team Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles poses with their trophies and medals along with NMIVA representatives and their head coach Joe Saures, background, far left, during the awards ceremony of the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2024-2025 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium last Tuesday.

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER

There was never a doubt from Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles' head coach Joe Saures that his team would win the championship once again in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2024-2025.

Despite having to claw their way up the playoff rounds against No. 1 seed Marianas High School Lady Dolphins lying in wait, the Lady Eagles rose like phoenixes and won three sets in the best-of-five finals at the MHS Gymnasium last Tuesday.

The Lady Dolphins entered

the championship with a one-set advantage due to their bye.

Despite this, the Lady Eagles—fresh off a win against Mount Carmel School just before the finals—claimed the next two sets, 21-14 and 21-16. However, the match wasn't over yet. When GCA needed just one more set to secure the



win, MHS bounced back and evened the series with a 21-17 victory, tying it at 2-2.

In the fifth and final set, the Lady Eagles' rotation of Mariana Angeles, Beatrice Fabre, Sofia Gomez, Eunji Hahn, Sarang Kim, Tae Hee Kim, L.J. Libut, Alyssa Omampo,

Eliane Pagaduan, Eunice Pagaduan, Joaenella Yarofalir, and Dianna Zheng moved and breathed as one to win it all, 15-10.

Long rallies and aces defined the game, as the last two standing teams played their

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LEIGH GASES

Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles' Tae Hee Kim goes for a return at the net that's defended by Marianas High School Lady Dolphins during their finals in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2024-2025 at the MHS Gymnasium last Tuesday.

Cuki promises exciting 'Cage of Fire' on Dec. 14

By JERCY DIANA MAXIMO

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CORRESPONDENT

The anticipation is building for "Cage of Fire," set to ignite the local combat sports scene on Dec. 14, 2024. Hosted at the iconic Garapan Central Park Roundhouse, this event promises an action-packed evening showcasing the best of kickboxing, combat grappling, and mixed martial arts.

Trench Tech Purebred Purebred Promotions is currently seeking talent, specifically looking for two fighters in the 105-110-lbs weight class for thrilling kickboxing bouts, which will highlight speed and technique.

Additionally, they're inviting two fighters for combat grappling, a unique discipline that allows grappling with open-palm strikes, creating a dynamic challenge for athletes eager to test their versatility.

MMA fighters are also encouraged to join the card, of-

fering a chance to showcase their skills in a format that blends striking and grappling.

Trench Tech Purebred Promotions owner Justis "Cuki" Alvarez explains,

"We promote friendship through fighting." Fans can expect a night filled with adrenaline, skill, and the spirit of sportsmanship as fighters take to the cage to demonstrate their hard work and dedication.

In a recent interview, Alvarez shared his inspiration behind creating the "Cage of Fire" event. "Originally, Trench Tech started its

MMA promotional events for the first time in 2005 and had our very first actual cage fight in December of that

year, called 'Trench-Warz Fight Night'" he recounted.

This inaugural event followed a disappointing experience at the Tinian Fiesta, where a team of inexperienced local fighters faced seasoned opponents

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Cuki



Nicko golden in Charleston Int'l Open

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER

The patriarch of the Salem family, Nicko, is golden in the Charleston International Open IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2024 last Saturday in South Carolina.

In the middleweight, blue belt division, Salem won gold over silver medalist Matthew Kruger. Third place were Ryan Berberian and Philip Matherly.

With his gold medal, he said it was, "very refreshing especially as a parent and coach of jiu jitsu. I get to place myself in my children and students' shoes and set the example for them."

Before this tournament, he competed last Oct. 12 in Emerson, Georgia. There, he won two gold medals in two separate divisions at a Newbreed Jiu Jitsu Federation tournament. "Competing at the tour-

namment back in Georgia was a preliminary event to help me get ready for the IBJJF tournament here in South Carolina," he said.

In this IBJJF tournament, he said, "The competition was tough. I sustained an ankle injury in my first match, but couldn't let myself miss the chance to win gold in the finals."

He will next compete alongside his daughter, multi-awarded young martial artist, Nickole, at a super fight in Cincinnati, Ohio at the end of December.

Nicko is a staff sergeant in the U.S. Marines for almost 12 years now and is a 2012 graduate of Saipan Southern High School. In 2014, he became the first recruit from Saipan to earn the coveted company honor graduate for Company M after completing his boot camp training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nicko Salem stands on the podium with his gold medal during the awards ceremony of the Charleston International Open IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2024 in South Carolina last Saturday.

Diego, California.

His wife, Nickole and Matteo's mother, Maria Victoria,

is an alumnae of Marianas High School. They now reside in Charleston, South Carolina.